STAR OF MYSORE

Vol. 45 No. 1 **Pages: 48** Rs. 2.00
Main Office: Ph: 2496520 / 21 / 22 / 23
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45th
ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL ISSUE

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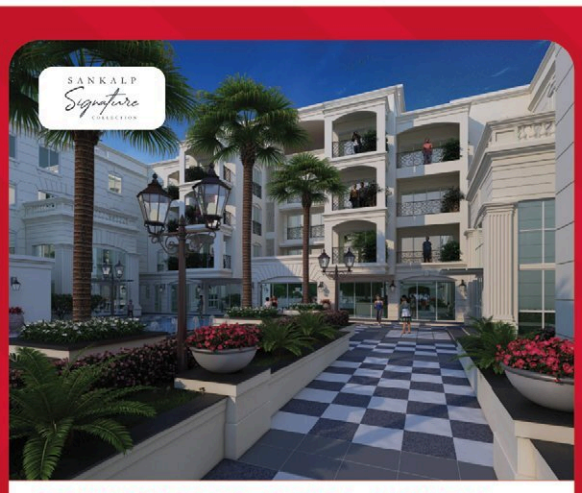

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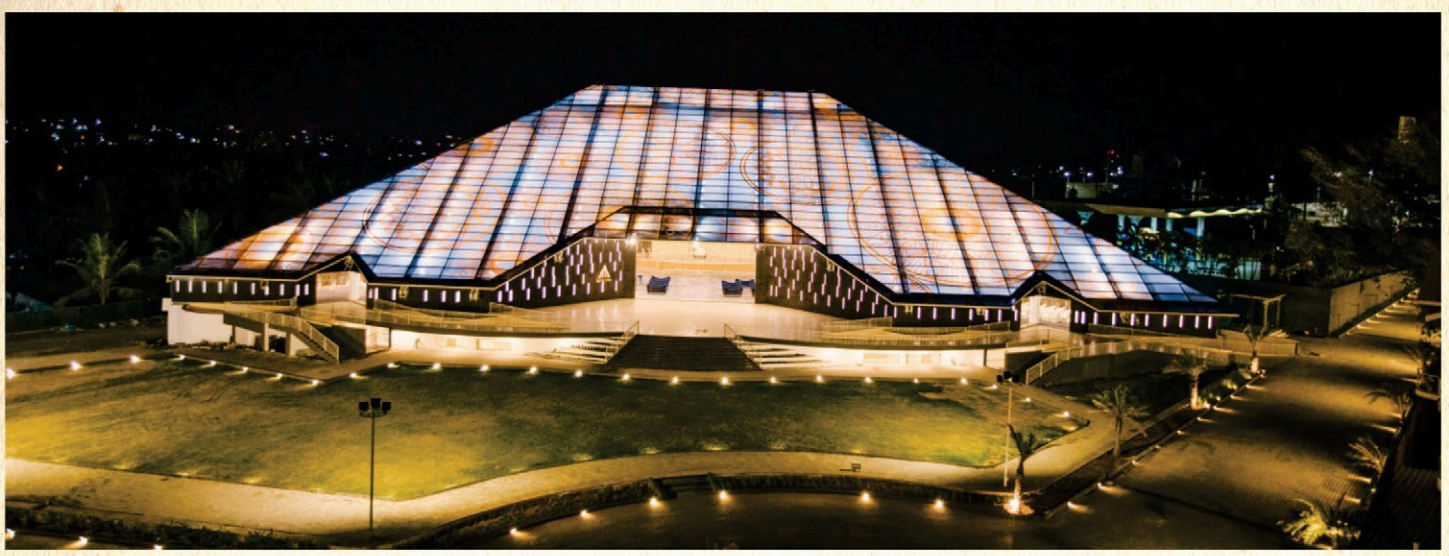

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"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Wednesday 16th February 2022

Thank You

It was this day, nay this very evening, 44 years ago that STAR OF MYSORE was born in this city as an Evening English Newspaper. Happily it continues to be your favourite eveninger.

From this evening, we will be entering 45th year of our publication. And as we do so, we gratefully remember all those who made it possible to reach this milestone and salute them with gratitude and humility.

Bringing out a special issue on our anniversary has been a tradition with us ever since the beginning of this newspaper. We are specially beholden to our readers and advertisers for making this possible this year too despite COVID-19 pandemic.

We have been following all along an independent editorial policy without aligning ourselves with any political party, community, group, ideology or vested interest and this policy will continue. Our first editorial titled *"A Star Is Born"* which is printed alongside, declares this policy more eloquently.

As a newspaper, we strongly believe our survival depends solely on our usefulness to the society and on the service we render to our readers and advertisers. Which is why we take up just causes and important issues in a crusading spirit to protect readers' interest while widening our readership base. And advertisers get VALUE for their money. After all, it is the credibility of STAR OF MYSORE as a brand and its pulling-power that should matter to our advertisers rather than the cost of advertising.

On this occasion, we also remember the truth that change is a constant in any organisation that wishes to grow — not just survive. And we are bracing ourselves for an array of changes from pre-press to printing technology. All this to ensure continuation of your addiction to STAR OF MYSORE — for all the news of *Namma Cheluva Mysuru.* We have experienced contributors who provide expert views on issues current and of common interest.

Welcome. Sit back, relax, make yourself a nice cuppa and experience your reading pleasure every evening.

And finally a big "Thank You" — to our subscribers, advertisers, contributors, our staff, our agents and paper delivery boys who together have teamed up to make STAR OF MYSORE a success story among evening newspapers in India. A very good evening to You.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

"I will now briefly outline our objectives for next year — We gotta make more money."

NEWS SPARKLERS

'Bromance' between goat and tiger to end

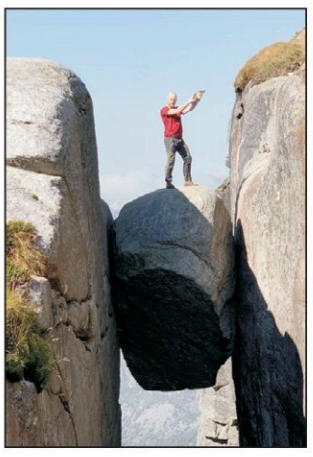
Moscow: Amur the tiger surprised the world when he became a friend with a goat which was given to him to eat.

The bromance between the pair soon transformed into an internet sensation. Thousands of people have watched online footage of the unlikely couple strolling along together and sleeping soundly next to one another. The heart-warming story of Timur the goat and Amur is soon to come to an end as zoo staff seek a mate for Timur.

The duo were separated in January over fears Amur might develop his wild side, but they continued to bond through the fence.

Now, amid fears the friendship could violate Russia's gay propaganda law, staff at the Far East Safari Park are holding a public contest to find Timur a bride. Details of "bride contestants" are being posted to the Timur and Amur Facebook page, which has over 5,000 followers.

A photo-friendly boulder wedged between rocks



Lysefjord: Kjeragbolten is one of the most instagrammable places in Norway. It's an ancient boulder wedged in a crevasse by the edge of Kjerag mountain, in Lysefjord.

The abyss is 3,228 ft. deep, so the chances of survival in case of a fall, it might as well be bottomless. However, despite its dramatic appearance, Kjeragbolten is relatively easy to access on foot without any special equipment, making it one of the hottest tourist spots in Norway.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Know your risk factors for Oral Cancer:
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By Dr. Praveen Kumar - Ear, Nose, and throat
Manipal Hospital, Mysore

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A Star Is Born

In an age where birth of a nation is a minor event, birth of a child is a curse, the birth of a newspaper is bound to be a non-event. More so when its founders and the Editor are from among the common men with no past of any distinction. Which is why there was no ceremonial inauguration of the publication of *Star of Mysore* or any promotional campaign.

It is natural, our readers may want to know what manner of a newspaper this *Star of Mysore* will be. A run-of-the-mill type that flutters and falls gently, like an unwanted old leaf, through the window into your drawing room every evening or the one that will interest you to welcome home and read with pleasure.

Yes, the *Star of Mysore* is conceived and produced to belong to the latter category.

This is a local paper and as such we are more interested in what is happening in our immediate surroundings rather than in the distant Delhi everyday.

Our investigative reporter will sneak into the Municipal Council Hall, go nosing around University campus, walk footloose along the Police beat, amble into the hospitals and slink under the seat of power to publish in cold print all that you always wanted to know but could not. Now a STAR is born to fulfil that need.

We, the publishers, reporters and the Editor are aware of our responsibility to our readers. And it is our hope that we will be able to find a responsive readership in you. We are also aware that in the final analysis, it is your patronage and support (both from the readers and the advertisers) that will sustain us in our noble goals and work-a-day life.

The best cannot come in the beginning. We have many constraints. We are improving now and will improve as days pass by. You will soon find better headline types, brighter layout and excellent printing. We are trying. The Star must shine.

[16.2.1978]

Wishing **STAR OF MYSORE** on the occasion of completing 44 years of successful Journalism

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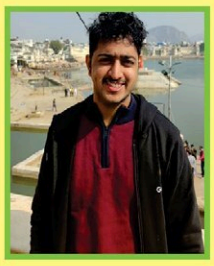

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PARENT SPEAK

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Abracadabra... Abracadabra...

By K.B. Ganapathy

Remembering our first Prime Minister Nehru

These days we are observing Narendra Modi Government's decisions to promote the legacies of leaders of freedom movement, who, it believes, have been ignored by the Congress regime over the last seven decades. The Modi Government apparently believes that this is a great historical wrong which must be corrected.

No civilised society should allow the good that men do to be interred with their bones. The fact about our freedom movement is that there were some more patriotic leaders who lived and died in the tides of times fighting for our freedom from the days of Alexander the Great about 300 BC. They too must be remembered. Modi Government, probably, thinks a beginning must be made to remember those who died fighting the invaders along with those who died fighting the British.

That could be the reason why Modi Government is instituting newer public holidays connected to India's freedom struggle. So Subhas Chandra Bose's birthday is Parakram Diwas. And August 14, a day before Independence Day? Hey Ram? It is Partition Horrors Remembrance Day. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary is celebrated as Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day). A tribal freedom fighter, whose name I had never heard, Birsa Munda, is celebrated as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas. Lal Bahadur Shastri, who succeeded Jawaharlal Nehru, as the Prime Minister, was not much celebrated before, but now Modi Government is giving a real media and governmental push to Shastri.

Having said this, let me dwell on the role Nehru played in shaping the destiny of our country — for good or for worse. There is a feeling among a section of our politicians that the role of Nehru before and after independence was exaggerated. I grew up from my school days till my college days under the shadow of the huge banyan tree of a Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Foreign journalists and Indian political pundits often compared Nehru to a banyan tree and did not forget to remind the people that no other tree grew under the shadow of the banyan tree. The hidden suggestion was that as long as Nehru was there at the acme of politics, there would be no room for others to grow.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

No wonder, the ubiquitous question raised was: After Nehru who? I had written about it in this column on 4th January 2022, under the headline *"What it takes to be a leader?"* I had given the example of Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, Mughal Emperor Babur, Winston Churchill, Chhatrapati Shivaji, Jawaharlal Nehru and Narendra Modi. Let it be.

From the days of Adam, God has not created a perfect man nor an immortal one. Therefore, it would be naive to expect a perfect leader who would deliver all the wishes of his people. And Nehru was a man. Despite some human infirmities, he rose as a magnetic Prime Minister of India at a time the country was under the pangs of a holocaust following the sudden, ill-planned division of British India. He was a leader with concern, courage and confidence. Which is why he survived as Prime Minister without a break for 17 years; continuously without a challenger.

Those 17 years, of course, were turbulent years and when the ship is caught in a devastating storm in the high seas, the Captain is bound to flounder. And Nehru, naturally, faulted on a number of issues that confronted a new free India, primarily because of the irrational vivisection of the country on the basis of religion. Faith, religious faith, has always been of very serious concern of the believers from the beginning and even to this day. Therefore, Nehru's role, during those early days of freedom and even later till his death, was of great importance in keeping the external enemies at bay and maintaining the internal order of such a huge country that is multi-religion, multi-linguistic with a pluralistic culture.

Looking back in 2022, I am of the opinion Nehru did acquit himself creditably as the Prime Minister. He was no ordinary politician; in truth he was a Statesman who believed in an inclusive society, a secular society, an egalitarian society of the Fabian ideology that he was influenced while in England. During freedom movement, he was jailed for ten years but he used the incarceration to write his magnum opus of a book *"The Discovery of India"*, published in 1946. It is about Indian history, culture, religion and philosophy as perceived by him, said to be subjective. I heard it was Krishna Menon, a close confidante of Nehru, High Commissioner in London and later 'failed' Defence Minister of India, who had edited it. May be apocryphal.

Nehru's visage radiated a philosopher's poignancy in photographs. I still remember a huge poster of only Nehru in black and white with a red background brought out for the first general election when I was in the primary school. Thereafter, I had seen Nehru twice in flesh and blood. Once when he came to Madikeri, Kodagu. It was here he made the often quoted speech about Kodagu (Coorg) — 'a land known for its Army Generals, sweet oranges and beautiful women.' And another time in Bangalore Central College Grounds when I was a Law student. He was physically agile and sprightly. I still remember him starting his speech somewhat like this — '...man is an animal. But a different kind of animal (a pause) man can smile. Animal cannot...'

Be that as it may, one might wonder what prompted me to write about Nehru again. A second look at the autobiography of K. Natwar Singh, Diplomat and Union Minister, where he writes about Nehru. According to him, modern India is Nehru's creation. Nehru, he writes, conceded that the freedom movement had ended in 'Partial failure.' 'The aim and destination of the movement was the achievement of an independent, undivided India.' Well, if so why nobody could prevent the division? Singh writes, 'Pandit Nehru conceded, partition was the lesser evil.' Apparently, leaders who mattered accepted this lesser evil !

A divided Congress Working Committee (CWC) passed a resolution accepting partition. Gandhiji's reservations were ignored, so also of Jayaprakash Narayan, Maulana Azad and Abdul Ghaffar Khan. The resolution of the CWC was sent to AICC. In the voting, the result was 157 for partition and twenty-nine against, twenty-three abstentions.

Many, in recent days, believe that Sardar Patel would have made a better Prime Minister. Probably yes, says Singh, adding 'but he died three years after independence on 15th December 1950. Who would have succeeded him? Without doubt Nehru.' In fact, those first three years were the most critical and cataclasmic years. Kashmir and Hyderabad. Nehru was ill-advised by his friend Lord Mountbatten on both issues. After the Lord exited India, Hyderabad was liberated, Modi partially solved Kashmir problem but PoK remains.

According to Natwar Singh, there were three cardinal errors in Nehru's foreign policy. They are:

1. His disastrous handling of Kashmir issue.

2. Misplaced trust of leaders of China.

3. His turning down of the Soviet Russia's proposal to give India a Permanent Seat in the United Nations Security Council.

In retrospect, one is inclined to agree with Natwar Singh. These are Nehru's Himalayan blunders and the country is paying for it even now carrying the problems of Kashmir and China like an albatross around its neck and may be, have to pay in the future too.

However, his internal policy is what is keeping this country going as a Democracy. He laid the foundations of our Nation — its Democracy, Secularism, Pluralism, Public Sector Units to industrialise the country.

Nehru's non-aligned foreign policy might have projected him as a leader among the comity of nations, but to remember that not one non-aligned nation supported India in the 1962 China-India War exposes the hollowness of that policy and Nehru's inability to judge true friends from false.

However, in the final reckoning it was Nehru's India till his death in 1964, aged 74 years.

There may be many makers of modern India, but Nehru, undoubtedly, is the first among them.

Jai Hind

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Happy 45th Anniversary
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Now, enjoy 'Ambaari' ride from Palace South Gate

Ticket prices slashed from Rs. 250 to Rs. 150

Mysuru, Feb. 16 (RK&BCT)- Ambaari, the open-roof hop-on hop-off double-decker buses that the tourists of Mysuru usually take for sight-seeing, will henceforth start from Mysore Palace instead of the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) Office (Hotel Mayura Hoysala) on JLB Road in city.

The bus that provides a new platform for experiencing and exploring the royal city's heritage wonders will start from the South Gate of the Palace (near Gun House Circle and opposite CADA Office). The Ambaari trip was a rage during Dasara and post-Dasara illumination periods where people lined up in front of the KSTDC Office for tickets.

(See AMBAARI on page 11)

Venue shifted from KSTDC Office as buses were not visible to tourists

G. Jagadeesha, MD, KSTDC

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, KSTDC Managing Director G. Jagadeesha said that the Ambaari buses that were parked at the KSTDC Office had no visibility.

Jagadeesha, who was the Commissioner of Mysuru City Corporation (MCC), now serves as the Joint Secretary to CM Basavaraj Bommai and holds additional charge as KSTDC MD.

"After taking over the KSTDC, I had visited Mysuru recently and realised that the buses that have been tastefully designed had no visibility if parked at KSTDC Office. We decided that the Palace South Gate is an ideal location for the bus as tourists who come there can see the bus, enticing them to go on city rounds," he said.

"From Feb. 16, one bus will be a permanent feature in the Palace South Gate. We have four buses in Mysuru and two in Hampi. The four buses here will take trips on rotation and even if the bus moves with tourists, arrangements will be made for the second bus to come to the South Gate without delay," he added.

"Tourists can directly purchase the tickets from the driver and staff of the bus. The KSTDC has spent crores of rupees in building the buses and also giving them a heritage touch. I am sure once the people see it on a daily basis at Palace South Gate, there will be many takers for the bus trip. Also, we have reduced the prices from Rs. 250 to Rs. 150 per person," Jagadeesha added.

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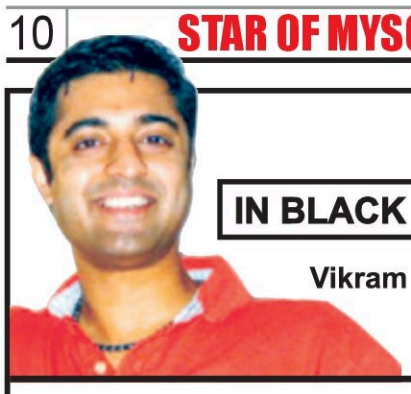
INSIDE ARTICLES

- KBG's Abracadabra on our first PM Nehru 08
- In Black & White by Vikram Muthanna 10
- A Silent Sentinel by Dr. Bhagirath 16
- Maharaja & Pressmen by Gouri Satya 18
- Interview of Mysuru DC 24
- Interview of MCC Comr. 25
- Nonagenarian Prof. Iyer's Mudra Therapy journey 32
- A Flashback to 1965 by C.P. Belliappa 35
- When Raj Kapoor came to my house in Mysore 38
- Over a Cup of Evening Tea by Dr. Javeed Nayeem 40
- Life through Lens 44
- Old Mysore... A Fond Memory by Girija Madhavan 46

NOTE: Due to pressure on space, some articles sent by our readers could not be published in this issue. They will be published soon. —**Ed**



IN BLACK & WHITE

Vikram Muthanna

Women more religious!?

As I recuperated slowly from COVID, I was angry that even two doses of vaccine had not prevented the virus from infecting my lungs. When I emerged from my prolonged isolation and turned on the TV, I noticed my anger against the vaccine was nothing compared to the anger I saw on the screen.

Like COVID had ensnared my lungs, religion had ensnared young minds.

On one side were young girls in hijabs who were furious for not being allowed into class in their headgear. On the other side were aggressive young girls and boys in saffron scarfs demanding scarfs be permitted in class if hijabs were. It was a disturbing sight.

But worse was how political parties stood around exploiting this juvenile rage and fuelled it with religion. As I watched these young lives, which should be guided towards a progressive mindset, being dragged back into a regressive one, I wished there was a vaccine against all religions. Oh! But there is.

The religious virus can be avoided by following COVID protocols: Maintain social distance from fanatics, Wash your mind frequently with logic and kindness and Make sure your IQ saturation does not dip into the 1st century but always remains firmly in the 21st.

Also, like how one stays away from "COVID risk" gatherings, stay away from religious gatherings as the chances of being infected with radical ideas are very high. And like in the case of COVID, don't believe what you read on the internet or WhatsApp.

More importantly, like how we take a vaccine to avoid dying from COVID, there is a vaccine available against this religious virus too — The first dose is a shot of 'mainstream education.' The second dose is 'science and critical thinking.' Then a booster shot of 'introspection and kindness.' This combination will produce "thinking antibodies" in one's brain, which can ward off religious brainwashing.

But alas, like in the case of COVID vaccines, some people don't want to get vaccinated against religion, and many who are vaccinated can't produce enough "thinking antibodies", allowing extremist views to infect their minds.

Now, as students are demanding they be allowed to wear their saffron scarfs and hijabs in class, I was left wondering, why are women so religious? Most surveys indicate that women are more religious than men!

If there is a group of people who would be naturally averse towards religion and shun it, that group would be women. Why? Because religion was not made for women or children. It was created by men, for men, and that is why it is full of men.

All mainstream religions were created by men. No female has given birth to a significantly powerful religion.

So religion has been man-centric. The worst part is that almost all major faiths objectify women. Men are afraid of women's sexuality and instead of controlling their urges, they want to control women's dressing habits.

Be it covering her in purdah, ghoonghat or burqa. Be it monitoring her menstrual cycle or circumcising her clitoris. Be it banning her from getting a divorce or having an abortion; men constantly tell women what to do with their bodies and mind. They claim they derive this power to dictate to women from God and deploy that order via religion. Meanwhile, what are the religious restrictions on men? Almost none.

Despite this harsh disparity, women still want to be part of organised religion! They still want to fight to go to Sabarimala and cover themselves up in public! It's perplexing, truly!

In a way, the relationship between women and religion could be diagnosed as Stockholm syndrome — Where people who are held prisoners or subjected to abuse oddly develop feelings of sympathy or other positive feelings towards the captor.

Meanwhile, as the saffron scarf and hijab protest heats up, we have to ask the people who are supporting these protests, why they didn't show the same enthusiasm when a 2011 census revealed that the literacy rate of Muslim women was lower than all other religious communities? And it had consistently been so.

Interestingly, according to the All India Survey on Higher Education 2017-18, Muslim students' enrolment in higher education has increased by 37 percent over the last five years. Also, in the previous five years, female Muslim enrolment has increased 46 percent! Now let us hope this dress code row does not discourage Muslim girls from getting into mainstream education.

Women must realise religion is not going to liberate women. Only education and financial independence will. Else women will always be at the mercy of a provider, a man, who will sooner or later, apart from being the provider, will also be her thinker.

For now, the children protesting for their right to "freedom of religion" should read *"Discovery of India"* by our first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, whose birthday incidentally is celebrated as Children's Day. And let what he says about religion sink in.

Nehru writes, *"Religion at its worst is divisive and at best irrelevant to the pressing economic and social problems confronting the Indian nation. We have to come to grips with the present, this life, this world, and this nature that surrounds us in its infinite variety. Some Hindus talk of going back to the Vedas; some Muslims dream of an Islamic theocracy. Idle fantasies, for there, is no going back to the past. There is no turning back, even if this was thought desirable. There is only one-way traffic in time. Forward."*

P.S.- I often say this, and I repeat it. While religion has and still is the bane of human existence, the concept of God may have a purpose. Here I mean the God who is a cosmic mystery, not the worldly law-giver. The idea and belief in God can be comforting when you have no answers. Guess one could say while science can cure us, God can heal us.

So, instead of living by the diktats of organised religion, maybe we all must live by the advice of Marcus Aurelius, the Roman Emperor:

"Live a good life. If there is a God who is just, he will not care how devout you have been. He will welcome you based on the virtues you have lived by.

If there is a God, but he is unjust, then you should not want to worship such a God.

If there is no God, then, after you are gone... and if you had lived a noble life, you will live on and on in the memories of your loved ones."

e-mail: vikram@starofmysore.com

VOICE OF THE READER

On Lata's death

Lata Mangeshkar

Sir,

This refers to Dr. Javeed Nayeem's article titled ***"The double anguish of Lata Mangeshkar's death!"*** (*Star of Mysore* dated Feb.13).

Dr. Javeed has not only paid tribute to the legendary singer, who has enthralled millions by her songs both in the country and abroad through her melodious voice but also highlighted the dignified life she lived throughout her career in spite of being a part of the glamour world. Her appearance in both print and electronic media is the proof.

Dr. Javeed Nayeem has rightly condemned the way in which she was shown in videos when she was hospitalised.

She would have felt insulted and outraged if she had lived and saw those videos. Those persons responsible for such videos should be punished so that nobody can dare to attack the privacy of anybody in future.

—Altaf Ahmed
S.S. Nagar, Mysuru
14.2.2022

'Ambaari' ride from Palace

(Continued from page 9)

In addition to shifting the starting point from JLB Road to Palace Gate, the KSTDC has slashed the ticket prices from Rs. 250 per head to Rs. 150, said a press release from KSTDC.

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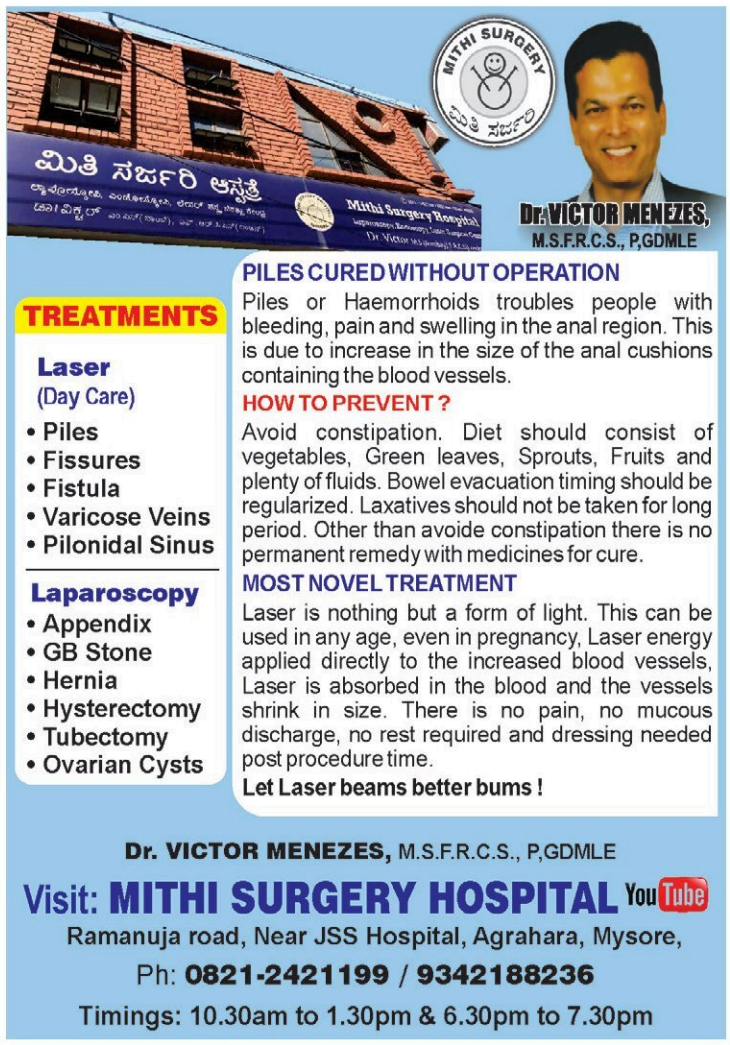
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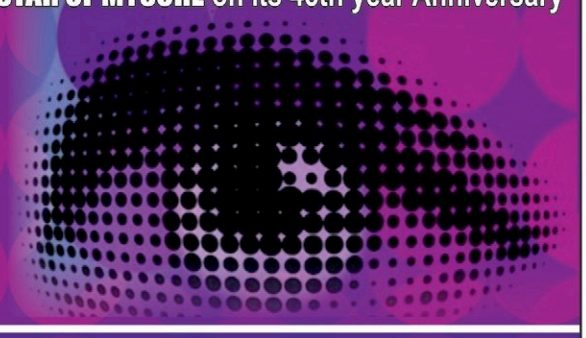

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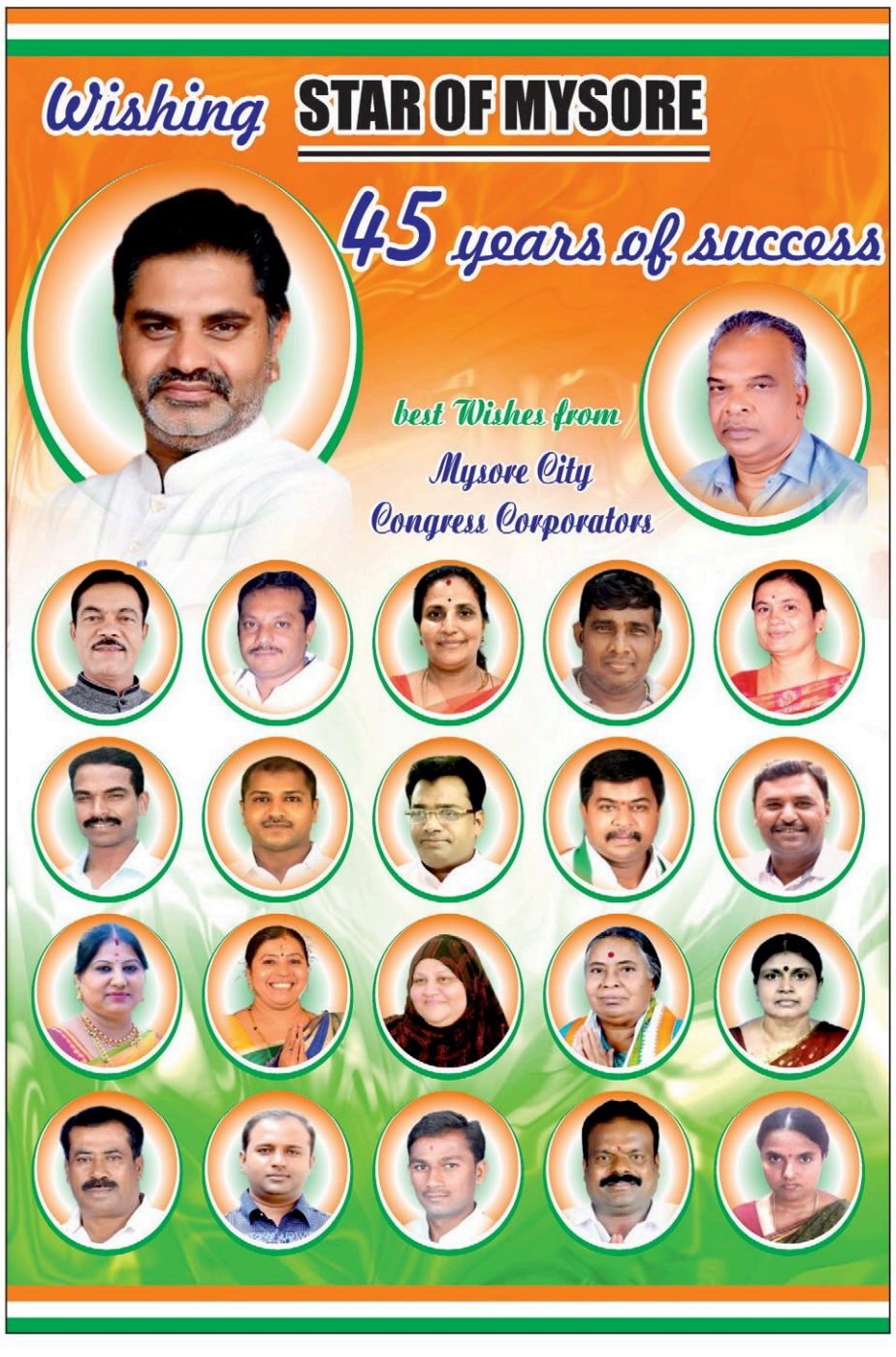

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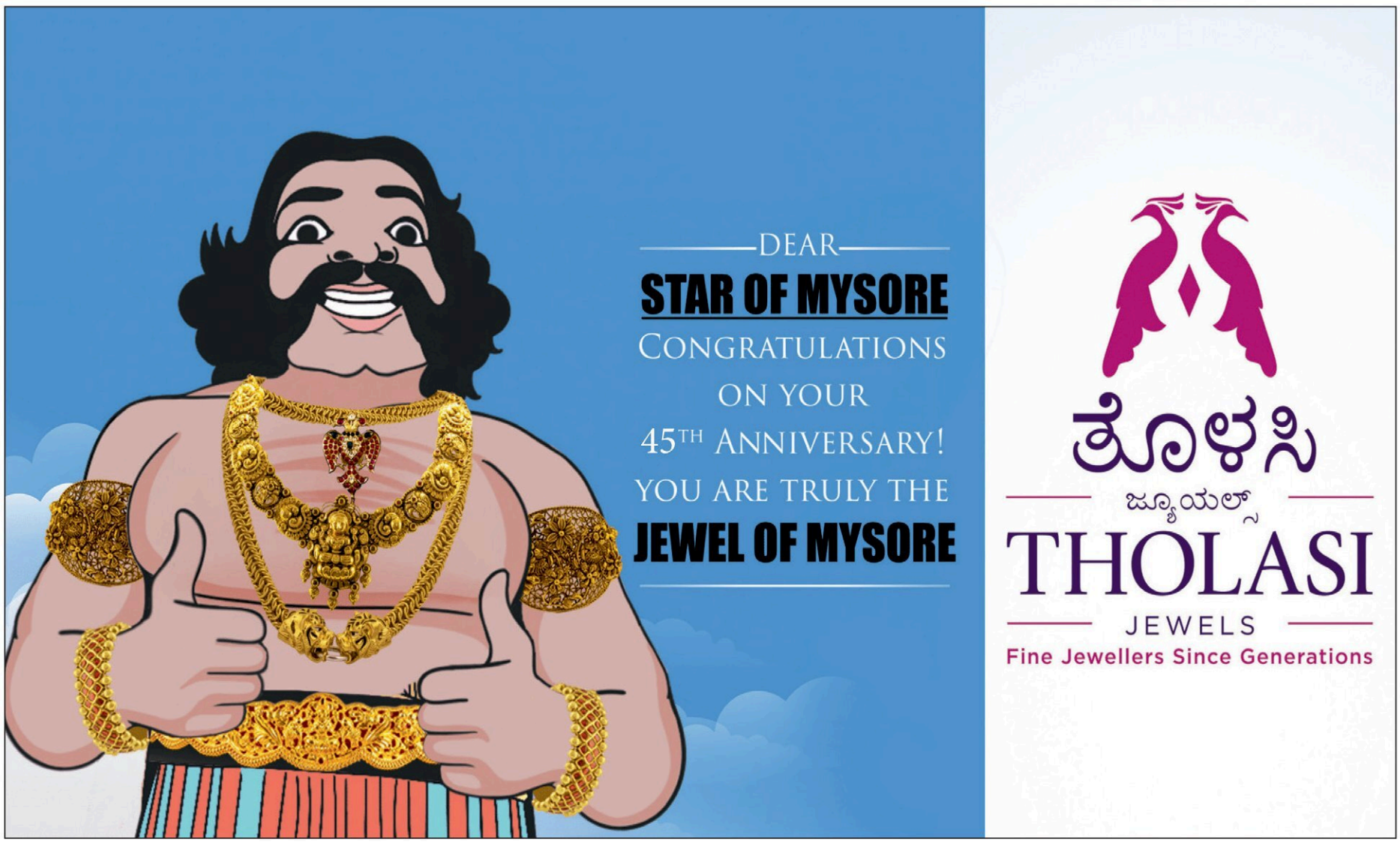
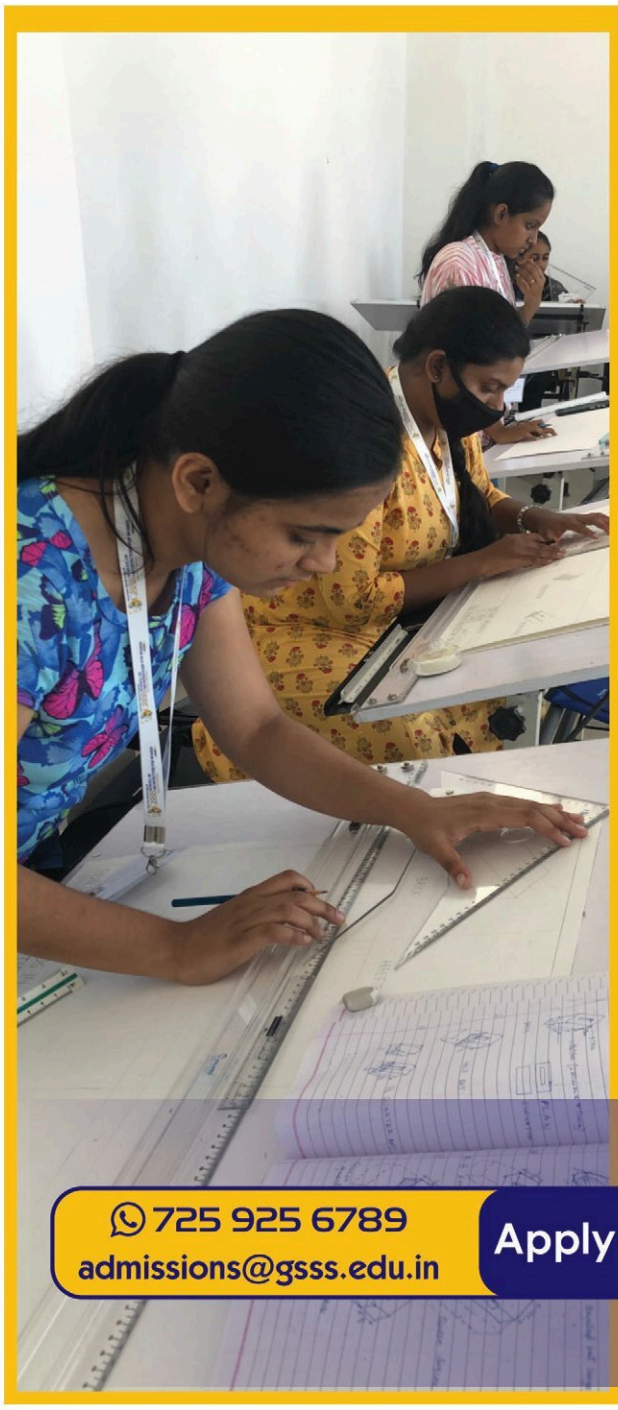




Printed by T.S. Gopinath and published by M. Govinde Gowda on behalf of Academy Newspapers Private Limited at Academy Newspapers Private Limited, 15-C, Industrial 'A' Layout, Bannimantap, Mysuru-570 015. Editor: M. Govinde Gowda. Phone: 2496520 / 2496521 / 2496522 / 2496523 / 2496526 / 2496527 / 2496528. City offices: Visveshwaraya Building, III Floor, **K.R. CIRCLE,** Mysuru-570 001, **Phone : 2431774** and No. 114, **D.Devaraj Urs Road,** Mysuru-570 001, **Phone : 2428695, E-mail address: voice@starofmysore.com,** For Advertisements: **ad@starofmysore.com, RNI Reg. No. 29894/78.**

A grandson's tribute to his dearest grandmother

A Silent Sentinel

My grandfather Dr. S. Srikanta Sastri was an extraordinary scholar in his own right. Yet, he was also a husband, father and a grandfather to us all. Behind this colossus was a sweet, petite, gentle soul who quite literally ran the Sastri household single-handedly, when her husband was engrossed with the rise and fall of civilisations. This lady belonged to a household in whose premises in Andhra, young Sathya Sai Baba suffered a scorpion sting and had his moment of realisation! She with her single-minded devotion dedicated herself to seeing Dr. Sastri's family through rationing, disease, world war and an untimely death of their young son. This is a small tribute to my dearest grandmother Smt. Nagarathnamma.

Dr. Bhagirath

By Dr. Bhagirath S. Naganath

It is a well-known quotation that behind every successful man there is a woman, it could be a wife, mother or sister. Smt. Nagarathnamma, wife of the famous historian Dr. S. Srikanta Sastri, was born into a rich zamindar family in Uravakonda (present day Ananthapur district, Andhra Pradesh) on 21st November, 1915.

Her father was Narayana Sastri and mother was Hosur Nanjamma. Father was a great devotee of Bhagwan Sri Ramana Maharishi and he also had a famous tenant in Puttparthi Sai Baba alias Sathyanarayana Raju.

Smt. Nagarathnamma

Baba's elder brother taught in the local high school and Baba entered into a trance after being stung by a scorpion on Friday, 8th March 1940, in Narayana Sastri's house. Soon he began to perform miracles and also had the powers of predicting the future.

Smt. Nagarathnamma married S. Srikanta Sastri in 1924, when she was just nine years old! On her mother's side an uncle by name Rupanagudi Narayan Rao was an established Telugu littérateur credited with writing many plays and other translation works including a work of Herbert Spencer. Another uncle Hosur Subba Rao's son Dr. H.N. Murthy became a foremost Psychologist in India.

She came to live with S. Srikanta Sastri at the age of fifteen and bore him four sons and two daughters. This family in the 1930s was a nuclear family and she had to take the whole burden on herself.

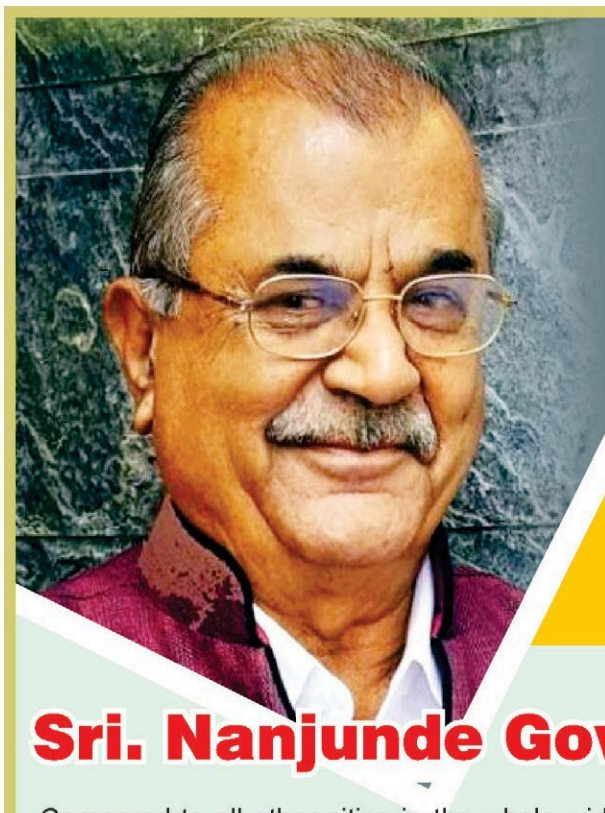
Smt. Nagarathnamma had received only a primary school education. She learnt playing harmonium from a teacher and also learnt to read, write and speak chaste Kannada. She appears to have groomed with her motherly care, the well-known freedom fighter and author Y.G. Krishnamurti and the well-known Director General of Archaeology Dr. S.R. Rao, who lived in the same building.

In those days a rare social custom called *'Varadanna'* prevailed in the Brahminical families. A few economically weaker students were given free meals once a week by a particular family. If a student received this benevolence from seven families, it sufficed the mess expenditure of that student.

Smt. Nagarathnamma enthusiastically co-operated with her husband Prof. Sastri in feeding several such students for a number of years. Some of them went on to become famous writers and publishers. Though an orthodox brahmin lady, she often played host to Dalit students without any hesitation in 1950s.

[Continued on Page - 19]

Smt. Nagarathnamma with her husband Dr. S. Srikanta Sastri at his felicitation function at University of Mysore in 1973. Prof. D. Javaregowda, Vice-Chancellor, University of Mysore, T.V. Mahalingam and Dr. B. Sheikh Ali are also seen. Picture right shows Smt. Nagarathnamma with Dr. S. Srikanta Sastri.



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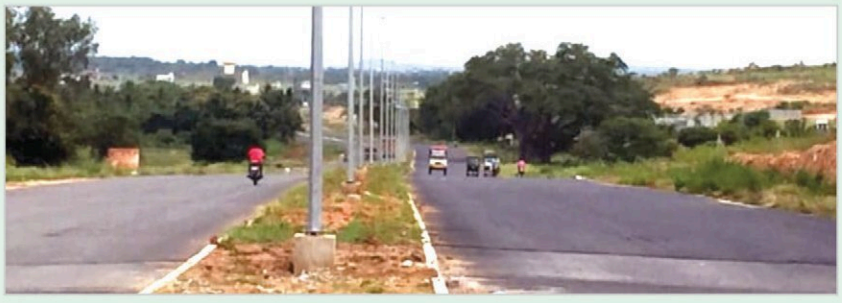
Guided by the vision, and ethical entrepreneurial pursuit of **Rtd., Asst Commissioner of Police Mr Nanjunde Gowda, Nethaji Housing Co-operative Society** has long standing history of being the most credible name in the sector.

Under his valuable guidance, embodying the ethics of making affordable housing possible for everyone, President of Nethaji Housing Cooperative Society T N Shashikumar has been working to realise this dream with every project they undertake.



Nirvana Nagar 7 Acres completed in 2017

SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL NAGAR

KR SRINIVASAN I.P.S. NAGAR

Projects :

So far, Nethaji Housing Co-operative Society has completed a residential layout spread over 75 acres of land, near Thallur and Sindhuvalli villages. A total of 1300 sites were sold at Nanjundeshwara Nagara within a short span of time.

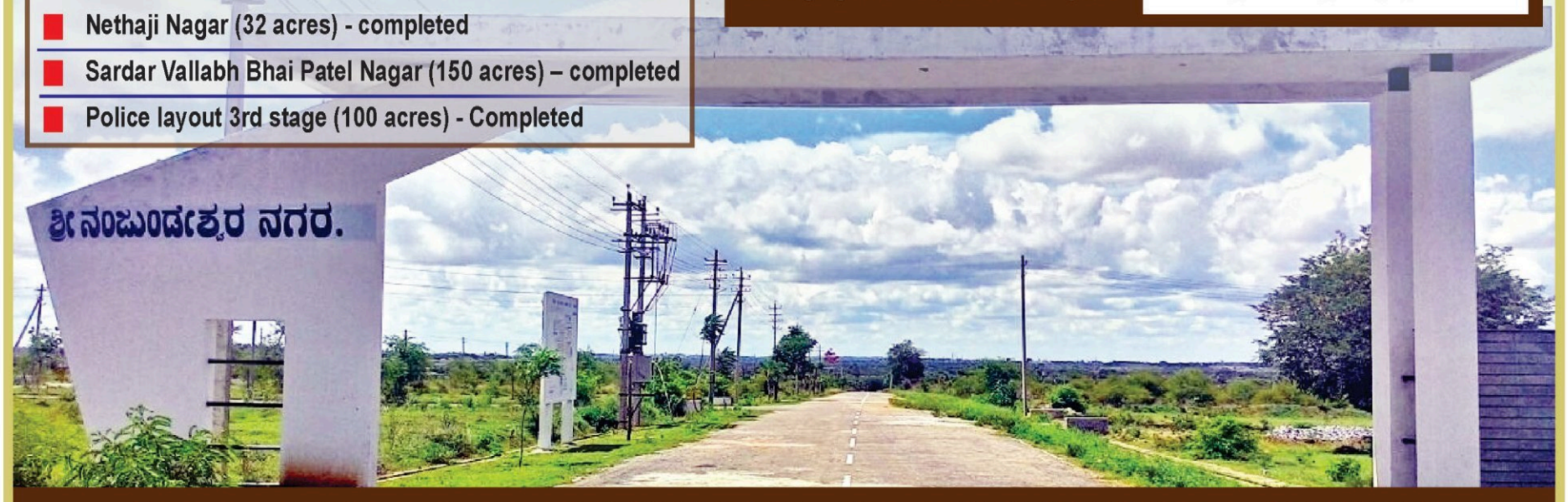
Visionary & force to reckon with

Mr Nanjunde Gowda, a retired DYSP has been a force to reckon with, in ensuring Nethaji Housing Co-operative Society Ltd., stays true to its word and work. He is serving as the President of Police HBCS and distributed more than 4000 sites to his departmental personnel, ex-military men and other govt employees. He has been awarded with best cooperative society award. His wisdom comes from 30 years of experience in housing sector. Projects completed under the able guidance of Mr Nanjunde Gowda are hallmarks of excellence, and he is an advisor of Nethaji Housing Co-operative Society Ltd., Under his guidance following projects were completed.

- Nethaji Nagar (32 acres) - completed
- Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel Nagar (150 acres) – completed
- Police layout 3rd stage (100 acres) - Completed

Mr. T.N. Shashikumar
Managing Director, N.G. Developers

Having started his career as President of Nethaji Housing Co-operative Society (Ltd) in 2006, **Mr Shashikumar** has been an entrepreneur with great values and ethics. **Nanjundewshwara Nagara** spread across 75 acres was completed under his aegis and the area is a fine example of **Mr Shashikumar's vision.** Now he is working on Trineshwara 2nd stage project at Murdgalli village Jayapura hobli



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Mysuru: A Look at its Past...

By Gouri Satya, Sr. Journalist

Maharaja & Pressmen

A historic event

The Maharaja seen with Pressmen during the inauguration of State-level Conference of Scribes at Jaganmohan Palace in 1951. *[Pic. sourced from a book by late K. Ramanna, Editor, 'Aruna']*

Twelve years left for a century mark, the Mysore District Journalists' Association (MDJA) has a history of its own. During this eventful period, many interesting events have taken place. But very few of them are recorded, although the city happens to be a pioneering one in the field of journalism. Its contribution to the growth of journalism in the State, pioneered by M. Venkatakrishnayya, the Thatayya of Mysore, is unique and significant.

One such event of a historic nature that comes to my memory is the State-level conference of scribes hosted by the Association way back in 1951. Though I witnessed it as a young school-going lad, the event is vividly etched in my memory, chiefly because of an incident that took place on the opening day.

Just around four years had passed after the attainment of freedom and the air of the newly gained freedom was still breezing fresh. People were happy that they were free from the yokes of British authority. A feeling of achievement and fulfilment was prevailing among them. It had received a boost with the nation turning into a Republic in 1950.

A sense of *deja vu* was seen all over particularly at public functions where freedom fighters and followers of Gandhism, many of them sporting Gandhi caps and wearing Khadi dresses, gathered in good numbers. The November 1951 Journalists' Conference was one such event arranged amidst this atmosphere.

Consequently, it had attracted Pressmen from all over the State in large numbers. Many of them were participants in the freedom struggle and followers of Gandhian principles. The effect of the change-over of a Princely State into a democratic set-up under the Republic was visible at the venue, the Jaganmohan Palace.

Elaborate arrangements had been made by the host committee, the Mysore District Journalists' Association led by its President H.K. Kumara Swamy, Editor of 'Aruna' Kannada Daily and Secretary G.L. Swamy, Editor of 'Samachar.' The Karnataka Union of Working Journalists (KUWJ) was headed by veteran journalist K. Jeevanna Rao, who was the President of the Conference.

After hoisting of the Tricolour in the morning at Nanjaraja Bahadur Choultry, where some of the journalists had been accommodated and food arrangements had been made, the delegates assembled at the Jaganmohan Palace Auditorium for the major event — the inauguration of the Conference. None other than the Maharaja had been invited for the inaugural ceremony.

Perhaps, it was for the first time that Jaganmohan Palace had been made available for a public function of this sort. The auditorium was generally restricted for functions related to the Palace or the State Government, like the Mysore University Convocation.

All the arrangements had been made on the dais. Seats had been placed in a row for the chief guests to sit, including the Maharaja. Whenever the Maharaja attended a public function, officials like the Huzur Secretary and other personnel from the Palace arrived at the venue well in advance to check whether the arrangements were in order and a red carpet had been rolled out to give the Maharaja a red-carpet reception.

The Secretary to the Maharaja, J.B. Mallaradhya, who arrived at the spot to check the arrangements, saw the chairs arranged in a row, including for the Maharaja. He was not happy that the Maharaja had to sit with other dignitaries on the dais. Generally, the Maharaja's chair was placed separately at a little distance away from others. Here, it was otherwise. He took objection to this seating arrangement and wanted the Maharaja's chair to be arranged separately, at a place little away from the other guests on the dais.

This led to resentment among the office-bearers of the Association and others present on the dais. They told the Secretary to the Maharaja that the Maharaja was no longer the authority under the old structure and the Princely status no longer existed as the country had attained freedom and now it was a democratic republic as well. However, their contention was rejected. Seeing that the officials were adamant, the Pressmen decided to stage a walkout.

Led by the office-bearers of the Association, the journalists assembled at the entrance to the Jaganmohan Palace, where they had planned to receive the Maharaja, marking their protest. A few minutes later, the Maharaja drove in and the driver stopped the car in front of the steps at the Jaganmohan Palace. The Maharaja got down from the car and the Palace officials rushed to receive him.

He saw the large number of Pressmen standing at the entrance with a show of resentment. The Maharaja immediately sensed that something had gone wrong. His officials explained to him the developments that had taken place.

Maharaja Jayachamaraja Wadiyar asked the officials to realise that the scenario had changed and hence not to insist on the protocol that they followed all these days. No sooner the agitated office-bearers of the Reception Committee and their colleagues learned this, there was a sense of relief.

They were happy that the Maharaja, unruffled, had resolved the issue smoothly. They received the chief guest with all cordiality and gesture that is befitting the status of a Maharaja. The inauguration went off smoothly. The 1951 Conference had thus turned a new leaf in the history of journalism.

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Silent Sentinel

Nagarathnamma

[Continued from Page - 16]

When her first son suddenly died at the age of 17 because of a heart attack, she stood like a rock behind her husband and family during this emotional crisis. She was known for her compassion, friendly nature and had immense sympathy for the poor and dumb animals. Once when her son narrated a sad film story (Kannada: *Gejje Pooje*) she wept profusely without even having seen the film. She always welcomed guests, relatives and students into her house and mind you, her husband's salary was only Rs. 125 !

The whole family went through the privations of Second World War and the cruel rationing systems. Her husband was a workaholic and spared no time for running the family. The education and marriages had to be conducted by the lady of the house.

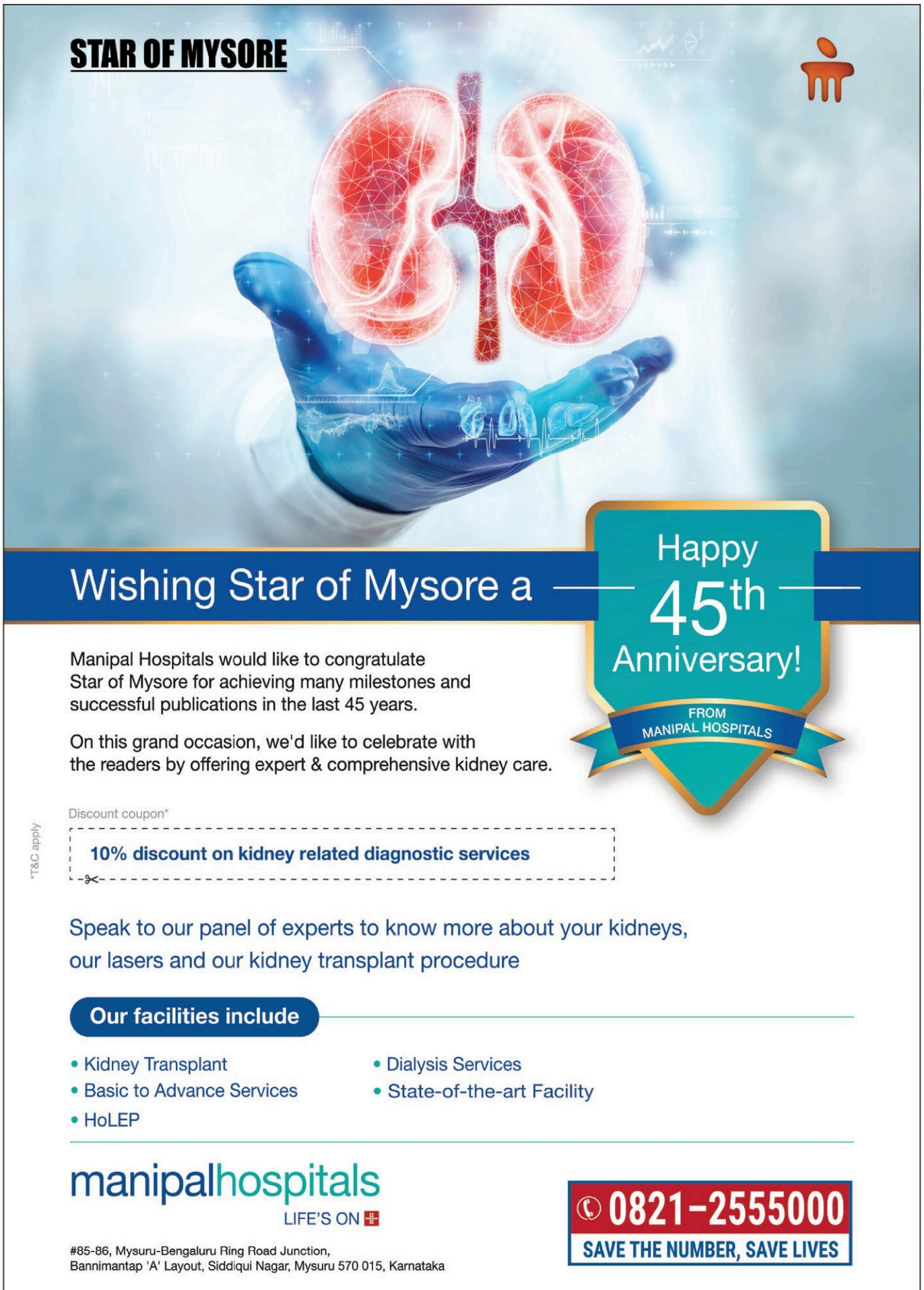
When Dr. S. Srikanta Sastri suffered a paralytic stroke and a heart attack, she served him diligently. Her husband's fame and popularity did not affect her in any way.

A quarrelsome shrewish neighbour lady tormented and harangued the gentle, sensitive and soft-spoken Nagarathnamma to no end, but to derive sadistic pleasure. This cantankerous lady left the neighbourhood and went to live somewhere else in Mysore. After many years she suddenly made her appearance before Dr. Sastri's house much to the chagrin of the family members.

This quarrelsome lady took permission to enter the house with a tray full of fruits, flowers and a saree. To every one's surprise she prostrated before Smt. Nagarathnamma and held her feet and wept uncontrollably. She wanted Smt. Nagarathnamma to forgive and forget her pointless nasty behaviour!

Smt. Nagarathnamma suffered from acute gallbladder stones and passed away on 9th March 1973 at the age of 58 years ▪

e-mail: bugs2beatles@gmail.com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Shattering Stereotypes

City's women auto drivers fight odds to make a living

By M.T. Yogesh Kumar

Traditional auto-rickshaws have always remained heavily male-dominated. Of late, there are many women who have shattered the stereotypes and have been performing the duties of auto drivers, sometimes even better than their male counterparts.

Though they face plenty of gender bias and discrimination on roads, their spirit is undeterred and they have crossed all hurdles to complete more than 10 years of service in Mysuru. After years of struggle, auto-driving has become a way of life for them and are fighting odds to make a living.

Star of Mysore spoke to three women auto drivers who continue to do their work with their heads held high...

Drove auto for education

Soumya, a resident of Hebbal, is a diploma holder in Communication and Journalism. She took to the profession of auto driving to fund her College education and completed the same with grit. After her degree, she continued the profession. Now she is married and settled but has not given up yet, balancing her professional and family life.

"I used to visually learn how to drive an auto when I was four years old with my dad and I have been driving for the last 15 years. I have gained the love and trust of people in Hebbal and surrounding areas and will continue to serve them. I was a little dull in my studies and my parents did not want me to continue studies beyond 10th standard. But I was determined to enter College and I earned money after driving auto," Soumya recalls.

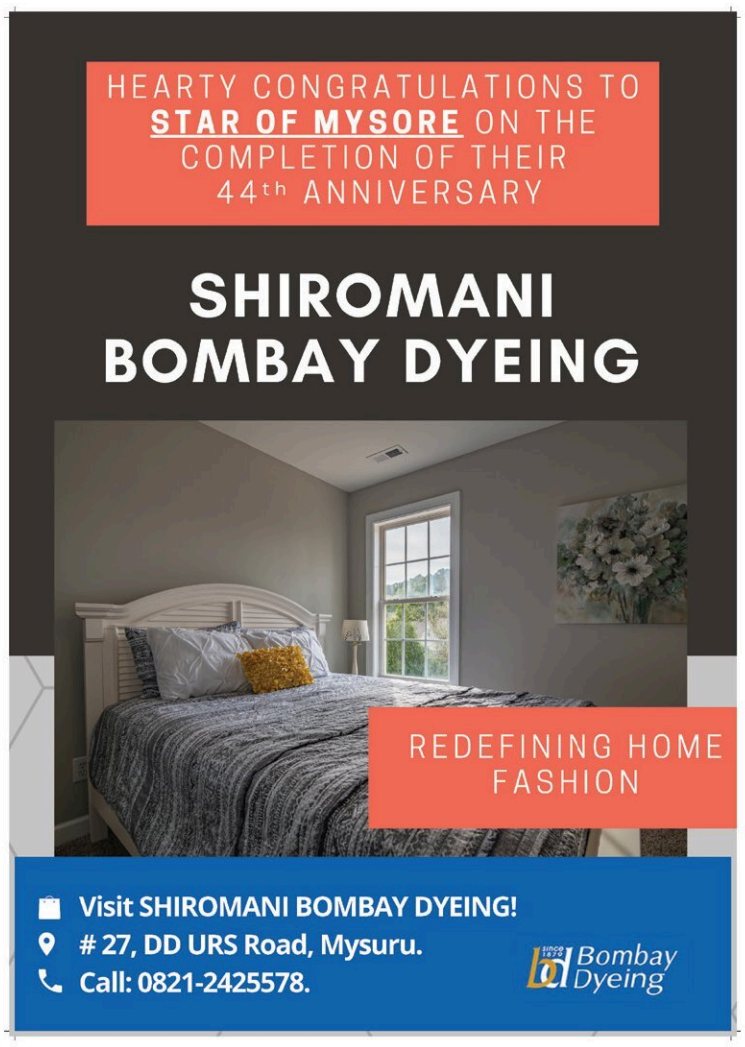
She completed her PUC and diploma while driving auto during free time and holidays. "Even after marriage I wanted to lead an independent life. After my son was born, I was back on the roads riding auto. Now he is seven years old. I have driven the auto for 24 hours and never shied away from driving late night or wee hour trips," Soumya says.

Tailoring was first choice

Masthamma alias Mary, a resident of Manti near Belavatta, has been driving auto for over 22 years. She is among senior drivers in Mysuru who have been efficiently discharging their duties. She took to this profession when she was 32 years old.

"Tailoring was my first choice and I was doing it along with embroidery. My elder brother and sister's husband were auto drivers and my mother was a member of ODP (Organisation for the Development of People) in Bannimantap. Later, ODP called for applications from women to distribute free autos. Of the 22 applicants, there was me and my sister. There was a condition that once the autos were distributed, it had to be driven by women and if any man drove it, the vehicle would be seized," she recalls.

[Continued on Page - 22]



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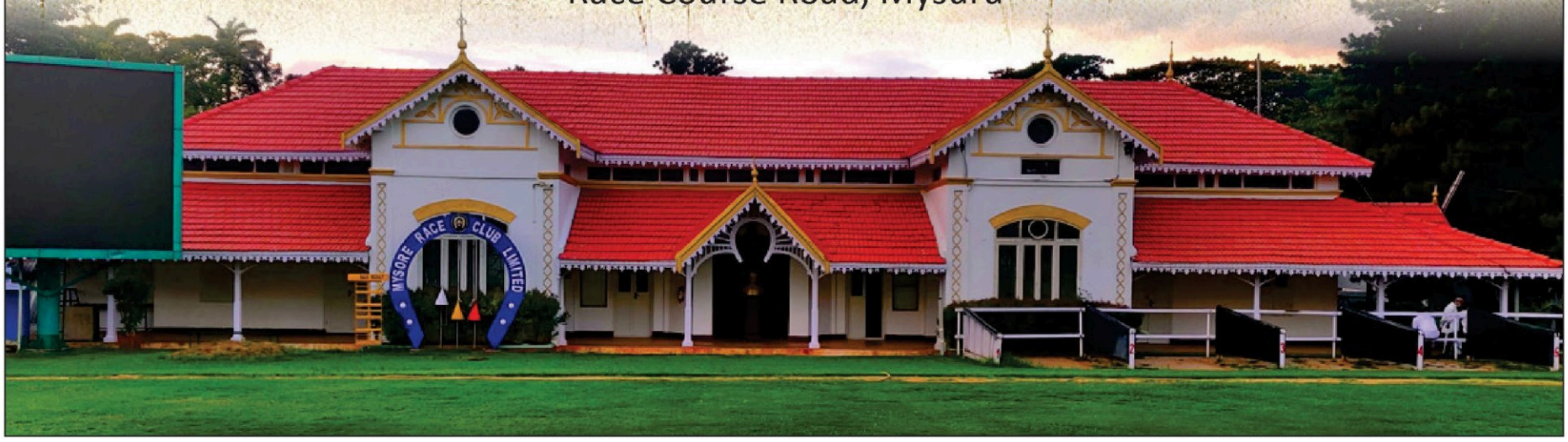

Women auto drivers

[Continued from Page - 20]

"My sister stepped back while I chose the profession and was trained by my father Cheluvaraju. After some initial glitches, I continued," Masthamma says. She earned Rs. 70 on the first day while she earned Rs. 130 on the second day.

"On the first day, I was waiting for passengers near K.R. Hospital. A lady and her daughter came there and asked whether I could drop them to Court. I agreed and asked them the way to Court. The lady questioned me strangely as I did not know the route. When I told them it was my first day, they felt happy. Actually, it was the first day at Court for the lady's daughter too. After the drop, the lady encouraged me and told me to never give up. This boosted my confidence and I did not look back," Masthamma recalls.

Masthamma got her daughter married, a son and another daughter educated with the income gained by auto driving. "I have led a good life and my rickshaw has been treating me like a queen, fulfilling all my needs. For a change, I have not faced any harassment or insults from male drivers. Rather they were very helpful," she adds.

Did not like it first but loved it later

Veena, a resident of Tilaknagar, has been driving an auto for 19 years. She came to the profession accidentally. "I did not like it initially but adjusted to it and later loved the profession. Now my entire life revolves around my auto," she says.

"My husband left me as I had two girl children and my brother and brother-in-law were auto drivers and my mother ran a small fast food joint near Metropole Circle. When my brother-in-law died, I took his auto and learnt it. But the very first day, my auto turned turtle," she recalls.

Veena was driving the auto at great speed on day one. "To avoid colliding against a parked bus on Chamaraja Double Road, I turned suddenly and my auto turned turtle. I had a woman passenger and her child behind and fortunately, nothing happened for them while I sustained injuries on my knees," she recalls.

"No one has misbehaved with me till now and I am happy driving an auto. My colleagues have been cooperative and I did not have any unpleasant experience with any passengers. This profession has taught me the grit to take life as a challenge and my auto has been taking me along the ups and downs," she concludes ▪

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Low-profile Officer who wants to excel

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Bagadi Gautham is passionate about sports, nature, trekking

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS
By Shadan Muneer

Mysuru, the next big city in Karnataka after Bengaluru and being close to it, serves as a strategic administrative division. There have been innumerable inspiring stories of people in Mysuru achieving in their own fields and going on to become one of the best administrators.

Dr. Bagadi Gautham, the present Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Mysuru, is one such distinguished Indian Administrative Service (IAS) Officer. He took charge in June 2021 and has been serving for the betterment of the district.

A native of Andhra Pradesh, he has been self-motivated since childhood. He holds an MBBS degree but his inclination towards Civil Services inspired him to successfully crack the UPSC exam.

Dr. Bagadi Gautham keeps a low profile and believes in achieving goals through proper planning and orientation. He is married to IAS Officer S. Aswathi, who is presently serving as the DC of neighbouring Mandya district since February 2021.

This 40-year-old IAS Officer is passionate about sports and trekking. He has earlier served as the DC of Davanagere, Chikkamagalur, Raichur and also as the CEO of Belagavi Zilla Panchayat. *Star of Mysore* caught up with Dr. Bagadi Gautham to understand his personality and know the other side of his life. Read on...

Star of Mysore (SOM): Tell us about your growing up years?

Dr. Bagadi Gautham: I studied in a boarding school in my early days and had a disciplined childhood with my father being my guiding force. I have always been self-motivated and ambitious and had an aptitude towards Civil Services which made me choose this field. I am also a trained MBBS doctor.

SOM: Take us through your daily routine and how you manage the stress that comes with your job.

Dr. Bagadi Gautham: My day starts with a physical activity — be it yoga, running or walking — depending on how much time I have on hand before I head out to work. After I return home, I make sure to again indulge in some form of physical activity post-dinner. I ensure that I am in the right mental and physical state to deal with stress as physical activities help me a lot in de-stressing.

SOM: What are your other interests and passions besides work?

Dr. Bagadi Gautham: I am passionate about sports and trekking in the Himalayas is something that I relish. I enjoy spending time learning about history. I am also a huge animal-lover, especially dogs and I have three canine companions, a Siberian Husky and two Labradors.

[Continued on Page - 27]

From Engineering to MBA at IIM to IAS

MCC Commissioner G. Lakshmikantha Reddy loves to watch OTT shows, spend time with family

G Lakshmikantha Reddy, the present Commissioner of Mysuru City Corporation (MCC), has been at the helm of affairs from June 2021.

A native of Raichur, 35-year-old Reddy completed his early education there and has traversed a diverse academic record ranging from Engineering to Management to Civil Services. He has earlier served as the Assistant Commissioner of Hassan and Sakleshpur, CEO of Bidar and Vijayapura Zilla Panchayats. Being a top bureaucrat, he is occupied with multiple assignments and effectively manages an immense workload. During weekends, he makes it a point to spend time with family and indulge in stress-buster activities like playing with his toddler. His much loved sports include football and cricket. He is also a fitness enthusiast.

Star of Mysore caught up with MCC Commissioner Lakshmikantha Reddy to get a sneak peek of his ideas, achievements and personal life.

FAMILY TIME: **Lakshmikantha Reddy with his wife and kid.**

Star of Mysore (SOM): Can you take us through your growing up years?

Lakshmikantha Reddy: I am basically from Raichur where I completed my primary education. I had a normal childhood with caring parents by my side who always motivated and encouraged me and my sister to focus on education and become successful individuals. I did my graduation in Computer Science in Bengaluru and then joined the IIM (Indian Institute of Management), Ahmedabad, to do my MBA. Later I cracked the UPSC examination and joined the Civil Services.

[Continued on Page - 29]

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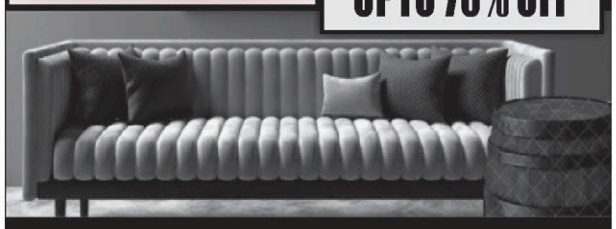

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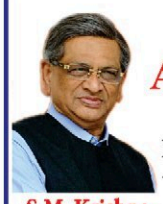

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WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR THE POST OF PROJECT ASSISTANT

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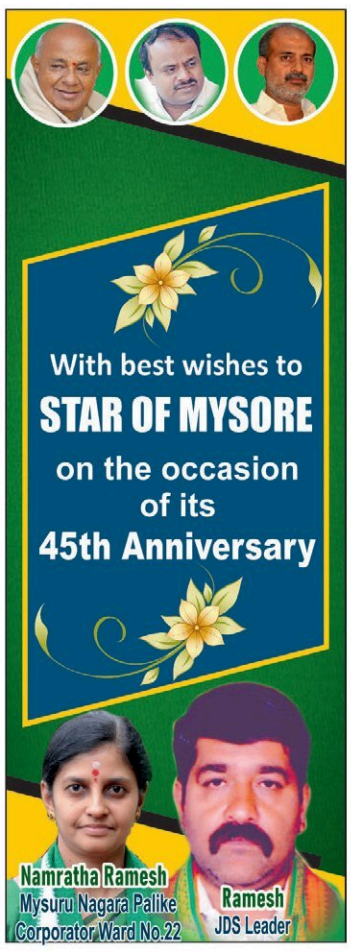

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[Continued from Page - 24]

SOM: Usually Civil Servants like being in the limelight but you maintain a low-profile. Is that a conscious decision?

Dr. Bagadi Gautham: It is our *dharma* to maintain a low profile. It is my personal preference and also my professional obligation. My work speaks up for my professional life. An officer's job is to be behind closed doors and work effectively and efficiently.

SOM: With your spouse also being a DC it must be difficult to balance your personal and professional life, isn't it?

Dr. Bagadi Gautham: Being a Civil Servant is indeed hectic but professional accomplishments overshadow other things. As both of us are placed in neighbouring districts, we get to meet every week-end; otherwise we stay in touch through calls. For now it's manageable but if we were placed at long distance locations then it would have been difficult.

SOM: What advice would you like to give youngsters who want to take up Civil Services?

Dr. Bagadi Gautham: Civil Services is no doubt a dynamic and distinguished field but it's better to keep all options open as there are plenty of opportunities available in India today. Dedication, hard work and proper planning is the key to success in any field, be it Civil Services, entrepreneurship or any other job for that matter. You need to prepare yourself well. A good School, College or University also plays an important role in shaping your career.

SOM: How do you like your stint in Mysuru?

Dr. Bagadi Gautham: It's a challenging district but I am enjoying it. Lush greenery all around, different kinds of flora and fauna add to the natural beauty along with pleasant weather, cultured, educated and hospitable people makes it an ideal and peaceful environment.

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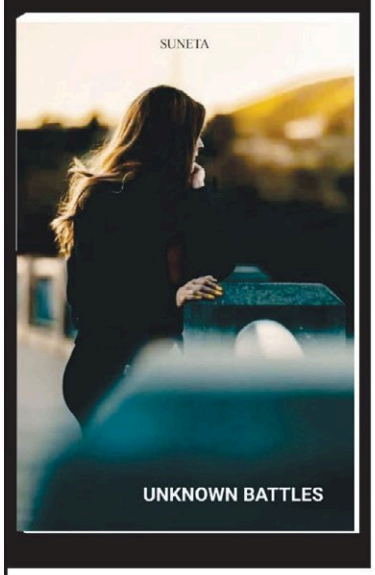

Wishing STAR OF MYSORE on its completion of 44 years and stepping towards 45th year of publication.
Wishing the evening daily to taste the success for many more abundant years to come.

Dear Readers,

Book Name: UNKNOWN BATTLES
Publication Date: 06/Dec/2021
Book is live on Amazon.in from : 6/ 01/ 2022
Book Price: Rs. 177/-, Author Name : Suneta

Book Details: This book is about a girl's journey who inspires us, that there is life, even after so much of pain and battles fought silently. Life teaches many lessons only to make us strong and realize our worth. This book motivates to face all the struggles positively and be blessed to find that there are still reasons to smile.

Author Note: It's my humble endeavour to make people aware not to get carried away by any excessive attention, care or any stupid sentiments and at the same time not to remain hurt but make attempts to rebuild life. If it inspires any one person I feel blessed and at the same time if it hurts any people ideology or principles then it's not intentional but its only a sincere effort to look through a person's journey in his/her eyes.

About Author: Personally inscribed: I am an entrepreneur running a Spoken English Institute and having more than 18 years of work experience in many company. I have travelled many states in India and now settled in Mysore.

Hope it inspires you. You can reach me on srsunikeerthi@gmail.com Instagram ID: suneta_789

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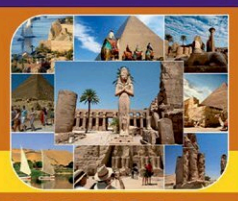

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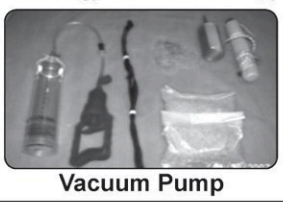
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Work-life balance is very challenging: Reddy

[Continued from Page - 25]

SOM: After graduating as an Engineer you did your MBA and finally landed the dream job of a Civil Servant, can you elaborate?

Lakshmikantha Reddy: When I was in the final year of Engineering, I decided to study further. I cracked the CAT and joined IIM, Ahmedabad, to study MBA. After completing MBA, I worked for Strategic Consulting from KPMG Advisory Services. While working on a couple of projects with Andhra Pradesh Government, I had the privilege to interact with senior IAS Officers on a daily basis which actually drew me towards Civil Services. I took up the UPSC exam and cleared it and today I am here before you.

SOM: As an IIM graduate you could have landed a plush job in the corporate world but why did you choose the challenging Civil Services?

Lakshmikantha Reddy: I did have a plush job after completing my MBA but nothing matches the job satisfaction that I am getting here in this field. I like taking up the day-to-day challenges and complex work structure that comes along with this job. Giving your best to bring about a change in the society is very satisfying and only Civil Services provide you the opportunity to work directly for the betterment of the society.

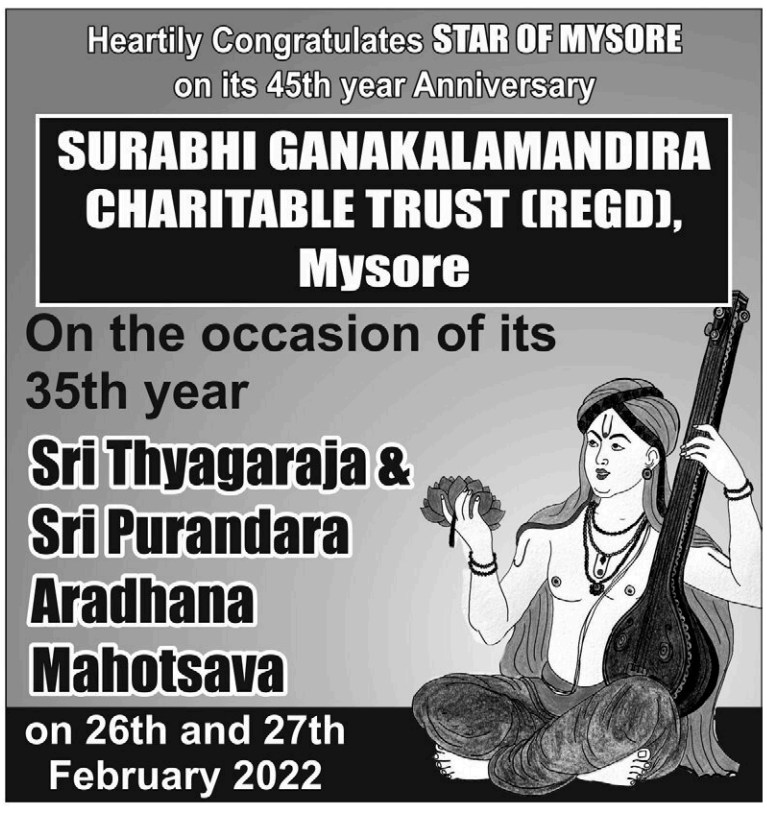
SOM: Being an IAS Officer will surely keep you occupied throughout the day. Still if you find time what activities do you like to get involved in?

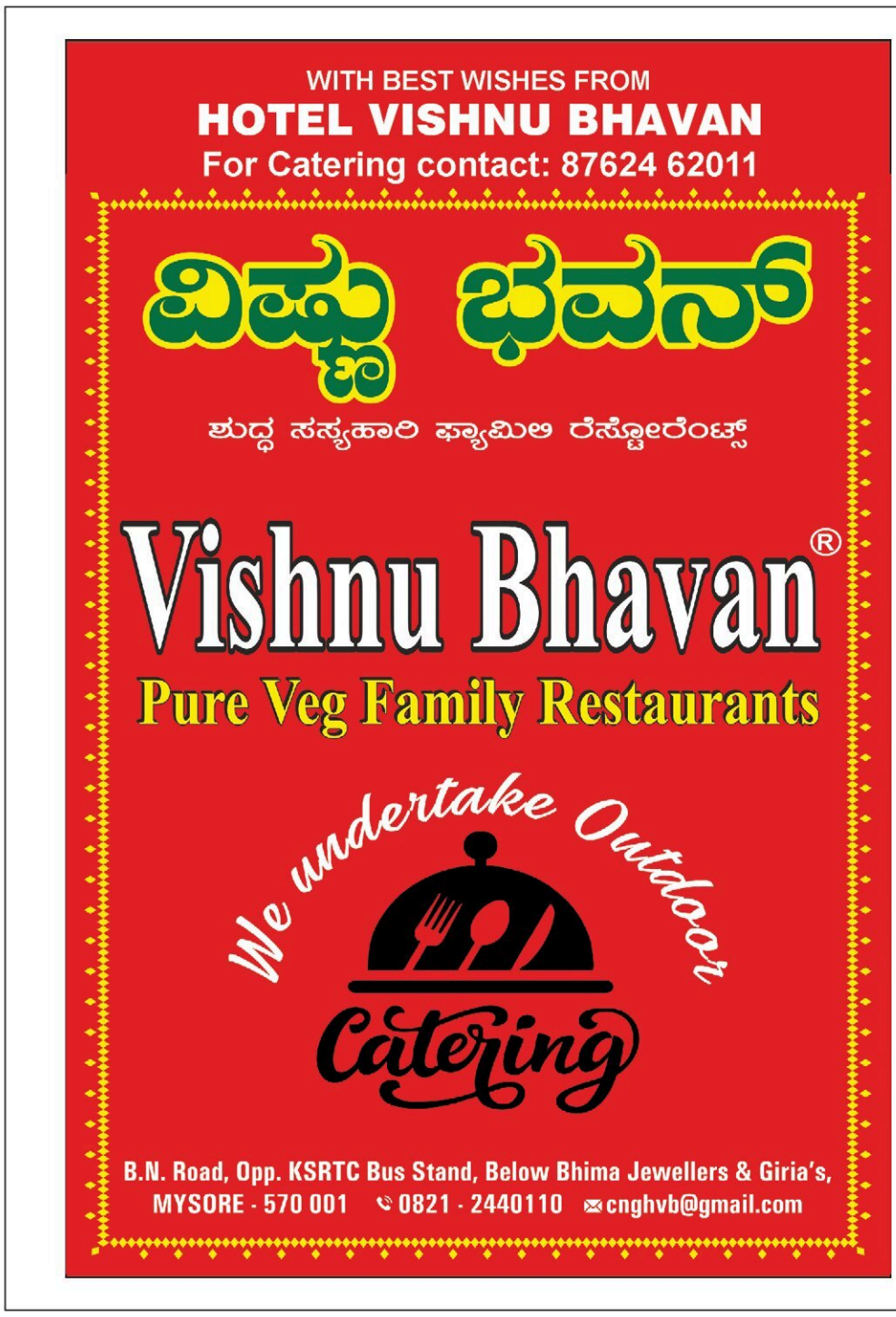
Lakshmikantha Reddy: It's difficult to find free time amidst my work schedule. During my college days, I enjoyed playing cricket and football but now the routine is to go on Ward visits in the mornings but whenever I find little time, I spend it with my kid who is 11 months old.

SOM: How do you manage to balance your professional and personal life?

Lakshmikantha Reddy: Work-life balance is very challenging especially in field postings as we are occupied here for 12 to 14 hours a day. Sometimes it gets difficult to give time to family but I try to keep my weekends free so that I can spend some quality time with my family as I am totally occupied during weekdays.

[Continued on Page - 31]

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[Continued from Page - 29]

SOM: How do you unwind from a long tiring day?

Lakshmikantha Reddy: After a day's hectic work, I watch shows on OTT (Over-the-top) platforms. Spending time with my child is also very relaxing.

SOM: What plans have you chalked out for the development of Mysuru, which was once declared the Cleanest City in India?

Lakshmikantha Reddy: As a team we have taken up three to four major aspects, one being the streetlight problem and we are in the process of implementing it so that there is no black spot in Mysuru.

Another issue is with respect to sanitation. We have now identified three spots to dump city's garbage and manage waste.

We are also planning to get modern processing plants. We are aiming at increasing the number of autos and getting compactors in each Ward. With all this in place, we can definitely match up with Indore and Bhopal in cleanliness in near future.

Another major aspect that we are trying to work on is the potholes. Works have started in all 65 Wards and hopefully Mysureans will enjoy smooth rides in coming months.

SOM: Can you reflect on your time in Mysuru?

Lakshmikantha Reddy: It's been a mixed bag so far but I am enjoying it. Mysuru as a city is quite good, people are also hospitable.

SOM: What advice would you like to give youngsters who are apprehensive about Civil Services and think corporate jobs are more comfortable?

Lakshmikantha Reddy: It depends on what you look forward to in your life — if you are looking for a stable and peaceful life then people would prefer a corporate world but if you like taking up challenges, do something for the society and feel the job satisfaction at the end of the day, then Civil Services is apt. Youngsters need to understand that determination, dedication, discipline and hard work is the key to success in any field.

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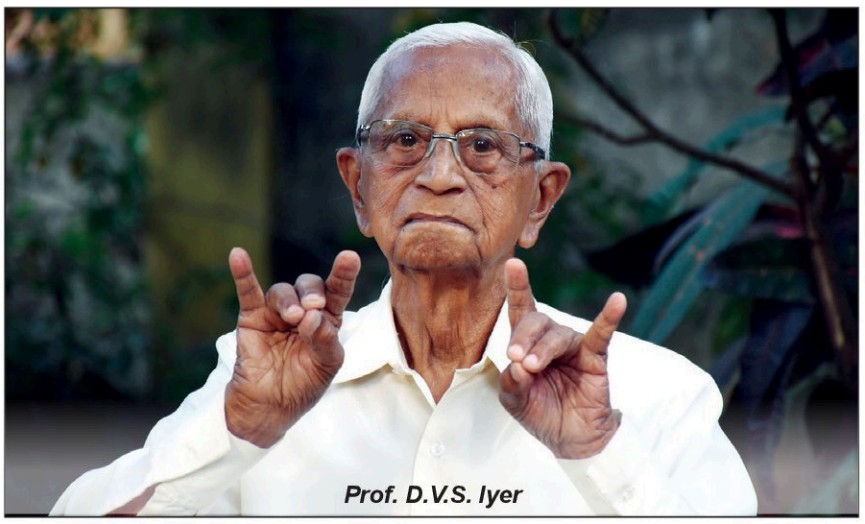
96-year-old began Mudra Therapy journey at 80



Prof. D.V.S. Iyer

Apana Mudra

Shankh Mudra

Vata-Naashak Mudra

By Nandini Srinivasan

The strides in modern medicine is a real boon and has proved beneficial to mankind. But sadly our focus has been so much on modern healing methods that we have lost faith in several alternative healing systems that have existed in our country since hundreds of years. It's time to look back and get the benefits of old wisdom.

At 96, **Prof. D.V.S. Iyer,** a retired Chief Engineer, is as sprightly as a 26-year-old and proudly says his health is at his fingertips! Prof. Iyer is a keen follower of Mudra Therapy, one of the many non-medical therapeutic measures followed in India, the knowledge of which caught his attention when he was 80. Today Prof. Iyer's book *'Art and Science of Mudras — Healing at your finger tips'* has seen five editions, after its first edition was printed in 2018.

Iyer confesses that as an octogenarian, when he accidentally learnt about Mudra Therapy from his nephew, he was sceptical and wondered how a mere positioning of fingers in a certain posture can cure illness. That was until one day he had a severe headache and decided to try one of the mudras.

He did find a lot of relief and his scepticism turned into curiosity and interest to know more about the ancient healing method. A deeper study on this science and practising it on himself led Prof. Iyer firmly believe in the benefits of this healing method, which not only provides a lot of relief from common ailments but has absolutely no side-effects.

Mudras are self-healing system, minimising dependence of medicines. They are special postures formed by positioning of the fingers into shapes made by touching, bending, twisting or inter-locking the fingers. A part of the science of Ayurveda, these mystical positioning of fingers is considered as corrective remote control switches used to channelise, regulate or enhance the flow of energy through nerve channels called *nadis.*

[Continued on Page - 33]

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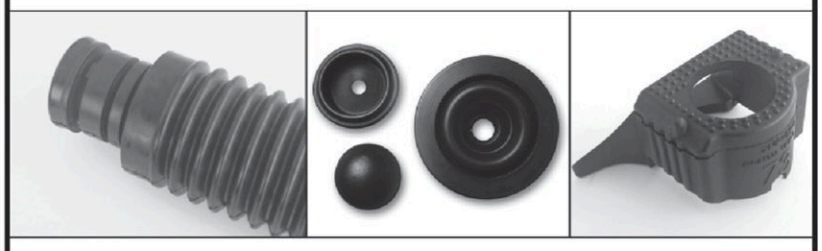

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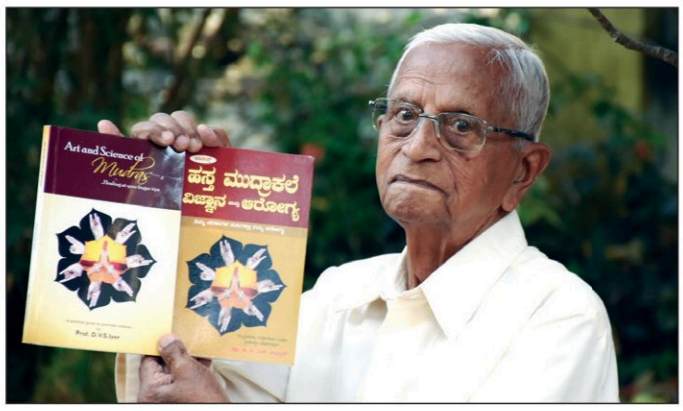
Nonagenarian finds relief through Mudra Therapy

[Continued from Page - 32]

As an Engineer, Prof. Iyer is as fascinated by the designing of our body just as any strong engineering structure! Our body has a self-sustaining and self-healing system for many disorders. He talks about how the Creator has bestowed our hands with healing power and made the palm of our hand like an energy control panel with fingers as switches which can control and heal. This healing technique is greatly assisted by mudras, which can be traced to the puranas more than 5,000 years ago.

Mudras are unwittingly a part of everyone's daily life, irrespective of caste and creed.

As his confidence in the therapy grew, his well-wishers Dr. B.R. Pai of Vijay Foundation and R. Narayan (now late) of Raghulal & Co., encouraged him to put his knowledge into a practical guide which even a lay person can understand. It is, as the author says, a guide for those looking for a self-regulatory therapeutic, self-care system for their health disorders.



Prof. Iyer, who resides with his wife Saraswathi, aged 88, at V.V. Mohalla, has three daughters and two sons. Daughters Uma and Hema are Post-Graduates in Sanskrit and into social work while another daughter Dr. Suma is a Gynaecologist in Coimbatore and her husband Dr. Natarajan, a Cardiologist in Coimbatore. Iyer's son Dr. Ravi is a Neonatologist and his wife too. Another son Hari is an Architect Planner and a Professor at a University in Japan.

"I agree there are many books on mudras. But my practical guide has very little of theory and pictorial illustrations of the mudras, which makes it very easy for the reader to follow. Though there are different categories of mudras, this guide talks about the Hasta Mudra." says Prof. Iyer.

Though there are different mudras for different ailments, the daily practice of six essential mudras enhances wellness and helps one keep general good health.

Jnana Mudra (early morning); Prithvi Mudra (mid morning); Apana Mudra (after lunch); Vayu Mudra (after lunch) and Prana Mudra (night) for 10 minutes each are a ready reckoner for good health, claims Prof. Iyer.

The beauty of most of the mudras are that they can be practiced from wherever you are — sitting, walking, standing, reading, etc.

"The knowledge of a doctor is unparalleled and as I said earlier, modern medicine is a real boon. But for many simple ailments you need not run to a doctor. Practice such healing techniques. Yes, consult a doctor when you don't find relief at all. Mudra Therapy especially is an absolutely safe technique which does not stress the body in any way. It is just a gentle touch of the finger tips for a specific period," says Prof. Iyer.

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MUDA gearing up for one time development works

Mysuru, Feb. 16 (RK&DM)- With the Government sanctioning Rs. 380 crore, the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), under its One-Time Maintenance (OTM) plan, is gearing up for executing infrastructure development and civic amenities works in layouts which are either transferred or about to be transferred to Mysuru City Corporation (MCC).

Following Governmental sanction of Rs. 380 crore, the MUDA will be taking up the works in 15 packages, for which the tender process is on. The works include development of prominent roads, construction of underground drainages, drinking water facilities and such other civic works.

MUDA's action comes following a Government direction, according to which layouts can be handed over to MCC only after development works such as betterment of all roads that link the Ring Road, manhole construction, improvement of main roads, development of parks etc., are completed.

MUDA has plans to take up developmental works under OTM in Hanchya-Sathagalli, Dattagalli, Devanur, Alanahalli, Shaktinagar, Siddartha Layout, Bannimantap, Vijayanagar, Hebbal, Lalithadrinagar, Vasanthanagar, Ghousianagar, Nandini Layout and other localities.

Admission to CMA Course

Mysuru, Feb. 16- The Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICAI), Mysuru Chapter, has announced that the last date for admission to Foundation, Intermediate and Final Course of CMA (Cost and Management Accountants) is extended up to Feb. 25 for June 2022 term examination.

Interested candidates may contact Mysuru Chapter of The Institute of Cost Accountants of India at #1420, 7th Cross, Krishnamurthypuram, Mysuru - 570004 between 10 am and 1 pm on all working days or over Ph: 0821-2331083 or Mob: 99001-11552, according to a press release from CMA R. Purushothaman, Chairman, ICAI, Mysore Chapter.

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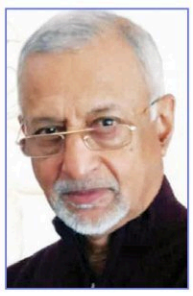
A Flashback to 1965...

By C.P. Belliappa

It was the last week of December in 1965. All of us were at home in Gonikoppal during the term break.



Belliappa

My grandmother had taken a *parike* (vow) to perform *Satyanarayana puja* at the temple in Peggala. On 31st December we had an early start, since *Ganapathi homa* preceded the *Satyanarayana puja*.

Our grandmother insisted we go empty stomach! We had to carry all the provisions for lunch that was to be served to everyone present at the temple after the conclusion of the *puja*.

It was an elaborate affair and by lunch-time we were famished and were impatient for the delicious vegetarian food the Brahmins had prepared. The aroma of the food was already wafting in the air. However, we had to wait till the priests finished eating first. The food was finger-licking good as expected. By the time we returned home it was late in the afternoon.

My father, C.M. Poonacha, was a Member of the Rajya Sabha (RS) at the time. A ritual that he followed everyday was to listen to the 9 O'clock news on All India Radio (AIR) before we all sat down for dinner. Right from a young age we too got used to this news bulletin. I remember the three beeps before the newsreader started with the headlines. I think it was Melville de Mellow who read the news on that day in his typical baritone voice.

The then President Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan administering the oath of office to C.M. Poonacha in the presence of PM Lal Bahadur Shastri and others.

"Finance Minister T.T. Krishnamachari has resigned from the Cabinet." My father was astonished. He increased the volume and gestured to all the children to keep quiet. "Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri has appointed Sachindra Choudhury as the new Finance Minister."

What Melville de Mellow said next dumbfounded all of us. "C.M. Poonacha has been appointed as the Minister of State for Revenue and Expenditure." It was unbelievable. When the news was readout in detail, we realised what we heard was correct.

My grandmother walked in hearing all of us shouting and congratulating our father. My father touched his mother's feet and gave her the spectacular news.

Minutes later the DC and the SP drove in. They gave my father the official communication received from the Prime Minister's Office. He was to leave for New Delhi the following day. His transport and air ticket had been arranged. Prime Minister Shastri himself wanted to talk to my father earlier in the day, but those were the days of the most unreliable trunk calls!

The swearing-in was on 2nd January 1966. President Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan administered the oath of office in the presence of Prime Minister Shastri, the new Finance Minister Sachindra Choudhury, Home Minister Gulzarilal Nanda and a few other Cabinet colleagues.

Prime Minister Shastri had great faith and confidence in my father. It was Lal Bahadur Shastri, who as Minister for Commerce, appointed Poonacha as Chairman of State Trading Corporation (1958-1963).

The second Indo-Pak war had ended in September 1965. Lal Bahadur Shastri left for Tashkent on 4th of January 1966 for a Russian brokered summit meeting between the Indian Prime Minister and the President of Pakistan, Gen. Ayub Khan. The 'Tashkent Declaration' was signed on 10th January 1966. It was on 11th January that India and the world heard of Prime Minister Shastri's sudden demise apparently of a cardiac arrest. My father was devastated.

Indira Gandhi took over as the new Prime Minister. My father continued in her Cabinet but with a different portfolio, namely, Minister of State for Transport, Aviation and Shipping. C.M. Poonacha won the 1971 Lok Sabha election from Mangalore-Kodagu Constituency. He was appointed Cabinet Minister for Railways in Indira Gandhi's Cabinet.

Lal Bahadur Shastri was a friend, philosopher, guide and a role model for my father.

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Make the best of what one has

By N.K.A. Ballal,
Retd. Sr. Vice-President, ITDC

I had an interaction with an educationist recently and he narrated something very interesting:

A few weeks back I was in my weekly webinar session with my Foundation students and I was scheduled to speak to my first year batch whom I had met only virtually till now. Before I start any session, I always ask them to come on video, browse through the multiple screens to say hello to each one of them.

Ballal

I noticed two of my students with some unusual background. The first was a girl student named Kalai, who was sitting under the hot sun, sweating all over and I could see some sculptures in the background.

Curious to know where she was seated, I asked her "Kalai, your background seems to be pretty unusual with all the sculptures, where are you taking this webinar from?"

She politely replied, "Anna, this is our village temple and it is in the entrance of our village and about 4 kms from my residence. This is the only place I get good mobile signal. I spoke to the temple authorities and negotiated a deal with them. I come here everyday morning at 6 am, sweep and clean the premises daily before 7.30 am. I then attend my class from this place where mobile connectivity is good."

I asked her, "That is good, but why can't you sit in a place where there is some cover. You are sitting under the hot sun."

She smiled and said, "Anna, don't worry. This is the one corner of the temple and it is the only place where connectivity is good. I do not move an inch from this place and in any case sun does not bother me. I am used to it."

When Kalai said this, my air-conditioned room temperature was 18 degree. Kalai is a BE Computer Science student and has been attending her classes for the last several months from her village temple.

The second interesting background was that of one Albin Raj, who was surrounded by leaves all over, branches to his right and left. I paused and asked him the same question. "Hey, Albin, where are you seated? Looks like you are sitting in a jungle."

He laughed and said, "Sir, I also have the same problem like Kalai. There is no mobile signal in my place and the best place to get the mobile connectivity is in the main road where there is a huge banyan tree. Everyday I come here in the morning with my lunch-box and attend my classes sitting right up in this tree." Bowled over with this answer, I could not help but ask the obvious question. "I understand the signal part, but why climb up the tree when you can very well sit under the tree and do the same."

Albin gave me a quirky smile and said, "Sir, I will show you what's below and tilted his mobile screen pointing downwards. And I could see lots of old people sitting and chatting under the tree and some playing cards too. It was literally a full house. Sir, there is no way I can sit and do my work in between this chatter and that is the reason I prefer sitting on the branch above and do my work."

I only get down after I finish my work at 4 pm. Albin is a first year student of BE [ECE].

I was awestruck with the way both these kids approached life. While I sit at my air-conditioned home with two internet connections and still crib, here are two of my students who have all the reason to complain and yet they look at the solutions available to make things work. Not once did they complain about their problems.

A grim reality-check for thousands of students who are provided everything by their parents including connectivity and food of choice too, whether they can afford it or not. There are hundreds of "Kalais" and "Albins" in this harsh world who do not have any basic facility but still manage solutions to their problems without cribbing.

Recently, Anand Mahindra sent out a heart-warming tweet. "This pandemic has taught us one thing — That we have to be grateful to God that we have a roof, food, money in the bank and basic comforts. When I saw millions of migrants walking on roads with their children barefooted, I realised the real meaning of poverty. These are the very people who keep our factories, malls, shops and our economy running. Imagine a life without a maid, cook or a factory hand."

To conclude, in this pandemic, an estimated 2 or 3 million people have lost their jobs in the hospitality sector alone. Multiply this in other sectors, the numbers are mind-boggling. Just imagine the state of mind of a worker, with hardly any savings, without a job in the middle of this pandemic! It is so common to see a teacher or a waiter selling tea or vegetables to survive. I salute their dignity of not looking for doles from the Government to survive. We have to live with this pandemic for the rest of our lives but be grateful to God for being alive and kicking. Let us not crib. Let us make the best of what one has.

e-mail: ananthballal@gmail.com

A file photo of students of Otterthotti village in Chamarajanagar who had to trek to hilltops for internet connectivity.

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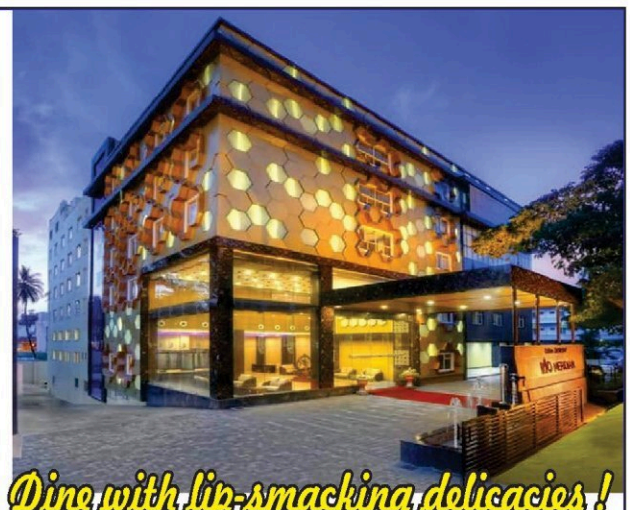

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When Raj Kapoor came to my house in Mysore

By H.K. Shivananda, IAS (Retd.)

Shivananda

Scenes from the movie 'Prem Rog' shot at ATI, Mysore, in 1980.

In 1980, I was working as an Administrator at Mysore City Municipal Corporation (Elected Council was superseded) holding Additional Charge as Director of Administrative Training Institute (ATI) also. I was staying in the Corporation Guest House, opposite Cheluvamba Park, Mysore, with my family.

One morning as I was having breakfast, the watchman came and told me in Kannada *"Yaaro Rajkapoor anthe. Nimmannu nodabekanthe. Varandadalle kurusiddene."* (Some Raj Kapoor it seems. He wants to see you. I have made him sit in the veranda)

I had my breakfast leisurely and came out after 10 minutes saying *"Yava Rajkapoorappa? Yenu cinema actor bandubittidara?"* (Which Raj Kapoor? Has the film actor come?).

As I walked out, to my shock, I notice the Great Showman of Indian Cinema, a popular hero to people like me from our college days in the fifties, sitting very much in front of me in the open veranda of my quarters. He immediately got up and wished me.

I profusely apologised for the delay and told him that my watchman never mentioned it is film actor Raj Kapoor. Obviously the watchman did not know this.

I immediately invited him to our drawing room and made him comfortable. By that time coming to know that it is the great Raj Kapoor of Indian Cinema who had come, my family members including my parents came in and they were all happy to meet him and get introduced.

While refusing to take breakfast, he accepted a cup of tea and explained what brought him to my house. He had come to Mysore to shoot *Prem Rog* under his RK banner.

The previous day as he was going on Lalitha Mahal Road, he saw the garden in front of ATI along with its gravel pathway and was impressed.

He wanted to shoot a scene there in which the heroine Padmini Kolhapure comes in a coach and gets down in the garden and meets the hero Rishi Kapoor. For that shooting he had come to seek my permission as I was Director of ATI.

[Continued on Page - 39]

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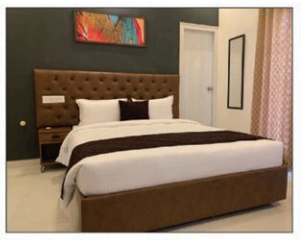

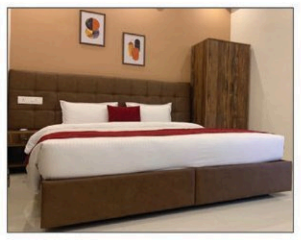

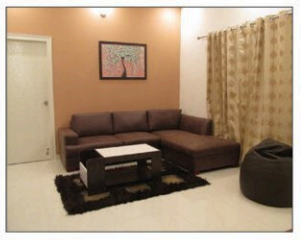

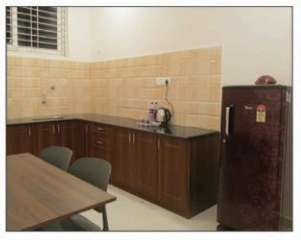

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'Prem Rog' hero Rishi Kapoor at ATI, Mysore.

Kapoors at ATI, Mysore

[Continued from Page - 38]

I happily agreed to give permission without even examining whether I had the authority to do so. Those days as Field Officers we had more power and bosses were also broad-minded and did not interfere as long as bonafide decisions were taken with good intention. Though he was at the zenith of his popularity, in his interaction with me he was a gentleman to the core and courtesy personified.

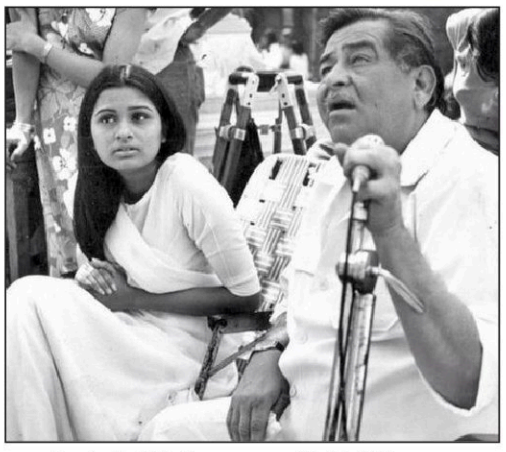
Next day Raj Kapoor had his shooting in the forenoon. Literally, it became an unofficial holiday in ATI, as the entire staff (including the Director!) and all trainees were there to see the shooting.

My grandchildren ask me now why I did not take a photo with our entire family and it would have been a great addition to my album.

I had no courage to say I did not own a camera then and mobile phones had not yet arrived !

'I am a complete product of the Legendary Showman'

Recalls Padmini Kolhapure in a newspaper interview

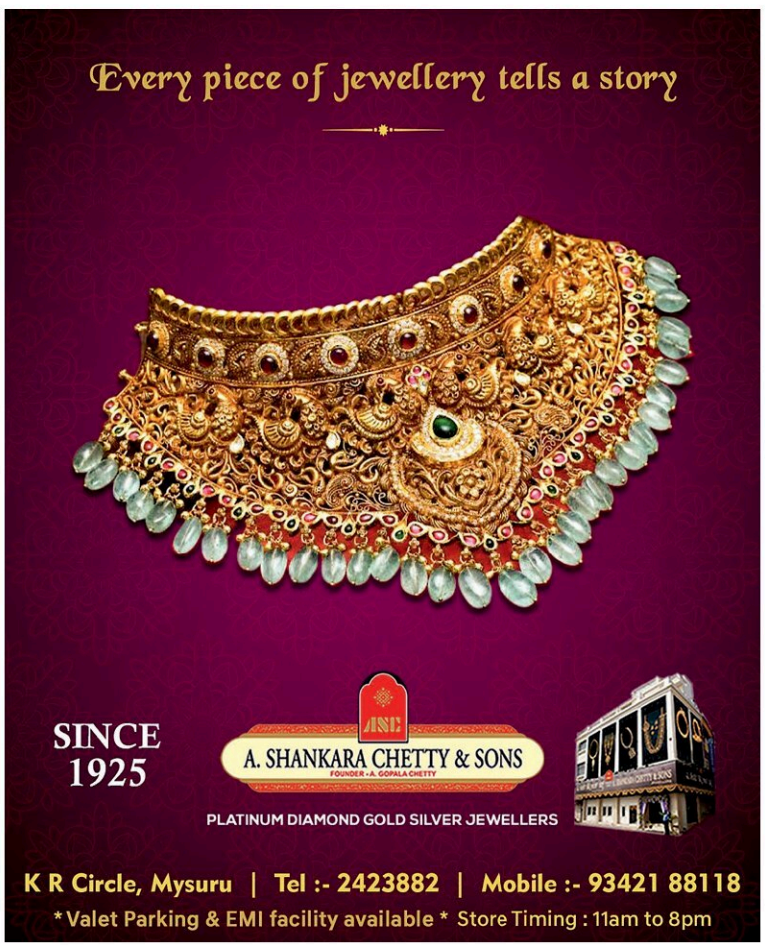


***Padmini Kolhapure with Raj Kapoor on the sets of** Prem Rog.*

Yesteryear actress Padmini Kolhapure was nine when she first worked with Raj Kapoor as a child artiste in *Satyam Shivam Sundaram*. The actress calls RK Studios her second home and herself a complete product of the legendary showman.

"The premières of RK films were much awaited. For the première of *'Satyam Shivam Sundaram'* in Delhi, he got me a tailor-made white lehenga by designer Bhanu Athaiya, as white was his favourite colour and he wanted everyone around him to dress in white. But I lost the lehenga on my way back home," recalls Padmini Kolhapure in an interview to a newspaper.

Though he came across as a taskmaster, the actress reveals that he adored his actors and literally put them on a pedestal. "He made us feel comfortable and special. When I was shooting for *'Prem Rog'* in Mysore and Bangalore, every day he would send a huge basket of 'gajras' just to make me feel special. He made every actress feel like a queen," Padmini Kolhapure adds.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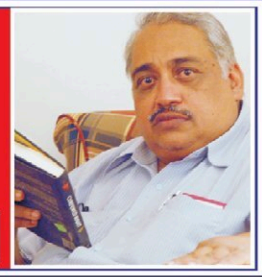
Over a cup of evening Tea



By Dr. K. Javeed Nayeem, MD

Of American Dollars, Indian Rupees and Australian Pineapples!

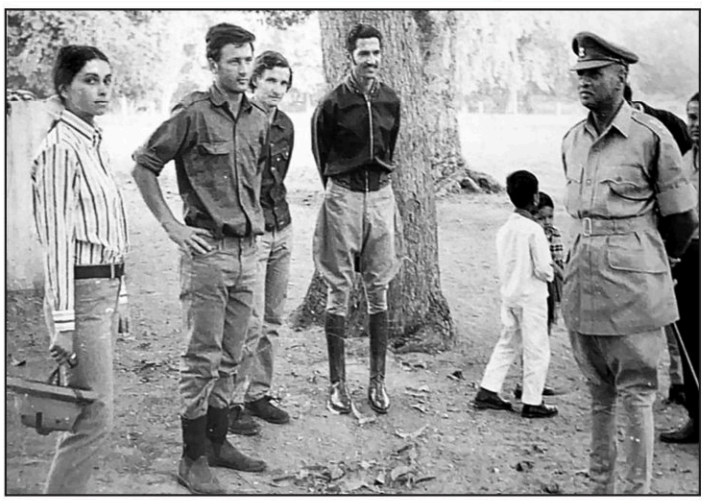
I have a patient, **Shama Rao,** who can perhaps be called a global citizen. He and his wife **Chandralekha** stay here in Namma Mysuru while their three children stay abroad. A son and daughter in two different places in the US and another son in Australia. And so, Shama Rao and his wife stay here in Mysuru for about there months in a year and spend the other nine months in three instalments of about three months each, in three different places with their three children!

The other very interesting thing is that once in three months they both unfailingly come to see me for their three-monthly medical check-up. Invariably, at every one of our meetings, Shama Rao brings me some souvenirs or keepsakes from the different places he visits during his travels across the world. These include things like pens, keychains, wallets and even clippings from magazines and newspapers, usually related to medical matters.

At these meetings, after their consultation is over, we invariably spend an interesting half hour chatting. **Actually, the Shama Raos do most of the talking and I do most of the listening because I prefer these conversations to be that way, if I have to gather some information about what is happening around the world.** They tell me all about how their most recent trip was and I tell them how our once laid back but now fast galloping Mysuru has been while they were away. So, this is a kind of note-exchanging exercise though not like the note-worthy kind we had here in India about four years ago!

This time, when Shama Rao and his better half came to see me, along with a few other souvenirs, they also gave me a packet of American currency notes containing the equivalent of 364 dollars in 34 notes of different denominations, which was mentioned on the packet itself. **But thankfully, this seemingly large amount was not meant to be my consulting fee because what their packet contained were not usable American dollars but completely shredded ones.**

Shama Rao and his wife Chandralekha with Claudia in Australia recently.



Claudia and other members of her group with Shama Rao and Capt. Krishna during their horse riding classes.

They told me that the packet of shredded currency notes they brought was a souvenir called **'Fed Shreds'** issued by the **Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago** which they had visited at their most recent trip to the US. It appears the bank, which takes back from circulation all the damaged and worn-out notes, shreds them and makes souvenir packets out of them for visitors. Here in India too, our Reserve Bank destroys soiled, damaged and unusable currency notes on a regular basis, which it replaces with newly printed ones. And, we are told that after our recent demonetisation, the Reserve Bank had to dispose of more than 800 tons of shredded currency notes which was naturally a gargantuan task.

Upon the advice of some smart brains in their Thiruvanathpuram office, it sub-contracted this job of recycling them to a private firm in Kerala from where they were exported as pulp boards to South Africa, the land that played a crucial role in the making of the Father of our Nation, whose face adorned the Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000 notes that were demonetised! How very interesting!

Coming back to Shama Rao, while I accepted his gift of American dollars happily, I was happier still that the hospital where they came to see me had collected my consultation fee, well in advance, in fully usable Indian rupees! But for me, his gift was a most unusual souvenir and it will now find a place among the many odd things in my museum-like collection.

But there was another interesting gift he gave me along with the packet of American dollars and that was a book from Australia, titled ***'And the answer is a Pineapple'*** by an Australian writer called **Claudia Hyles.** It was actually a book about the origin, evolution and history of the pineapple which was full of the varied recipes of all that can be concocted from it, collected from across the world. It was not surprising that the writer had decided to include recipes from across the world because she and her husband happen to be among the few people who have worked in many countries across the length and breadth of the world, an opportunity I would have loved to have had but never had!

Claudia during her first visit to Mysore seen with Shama Rao's sister Chanchala.

Now you may ask why this lady chose the humble pineapple as a subject to write about when she could have written a book about so many other more popular culinary preferences and made it a bestseller. It was only because, right from her childhood in Australia, where pineapples were in abundance, her mother who was an imaginative and adventurous cook, to use Claudia's own words, used to prepare the most varied kinds of dishes from the fruit, which included her most sought-after pineapple-flavoured Chow Mein, her signature dish. And, the reason why Shama Rao chose to gift me this unusual book was not because he thought that the pineapple was one of my favourite fruits too but because he has a very special and unusual connection with its author.

Way back in the year 1968, as a part of an international student exchange programme, Claudia Hyles had come to Mysore in a group of about six students who were accommodated with different families across the city as their guests. Claudia happened to stay in Shama Rao's father's house in Lakshmipuram for about two weeks when the young and handsome Shama Rao was given the role of showing her and her friends around the city.

Whether he was assigned this role by his father or assumed it on his own by some clever subterfuge, is open to speculation and I prefer to leave it that way. But in this matter, my guess is as good as yours! What is interesting to note is that just before her arrival, Shama Rao's father, the late **Venkatasubba Rao,** who was a perfumer by profession, very thoughtfully bought a small dining table for sixty rupees, to make his Australian guest comfortable. Until then the family used to have their meals, sitting cross-legged on the floor and to expect their guest also to do the same before she had been trained in some elementary Yoga, did not seem very right!

But it appears that even without any Yoga lessons, Claudia managed magnificently with their Indian style squatting toilet without the need for any modifications to it which certainly would have cost the family much more than their new dining table! During that visit, Shama Rao took his guest and her friends around the city and its surroundings in an Ambassador car which was then the best limousine that any guest could be offered. He even arranged horse riding classes for her and all her friends every morning at the Mounted Company through his good contacts with the Commandant, **Capt. Krishna,** who was gracious enough to allow them this opportunity completely free of cost.

In those days this princely pastime came at a princely sum of two rupees for an hour-long ride! Claudia soon became a student exchange coordinator and she visited Mysore a few more times, retaining her connection with Shama Rao's family and staying with them. **But on all these occasions, she thankfully had the comfort of not only dining at a much larger table but also the convenience of using a western style toilet!**

e-mail:
kjnmysore@rediffmail.com

Charity event

at Kurubarahalli Govt. Higher Primary School

Mysuru, Feb. 16- Students of The Cresta School of Management, Science and Arts had organised *Crestall-2022: Be Someone's Sunshine*, an annual charity event for underprivileged children, at the Government Higher Primary School in Kurubarahalli recently.

Cresta organises the charity event to encourage students to look beyond their personal ambitions and understand the reality around them.

Promoting social and civic consciousness, *Crestall* teaches students how to empathise and not sympathise, with those less fortunate than them. The College students distributed coupons of various denominations among the school children to exchange them for school supplies, clothes and toys displayed in the stalls.

Essentially purchasing the materials of their choice, the children felt empowered by the donation.

Held between 9 am and 4 pm, *Crestall* also entertained the children with a cultural programme consisting of lively speeches, dance performances, contests, and games. Prizes were given to the winners of the contests.

"There had been no recreational event conducted for these children in the past two years. At a time when there is a shortage of teachers at Government Schools, we are grateful to the initiative taken by Cresta College. They interacted with the College students, learnt how to plan their finances while shopping and really enjoyed taking part in various cheerful activities," said M.K. Ambuja, the Head Mistress of the School, during the event.

Free Thyroid screening camp

at Nayana Kumar's Hospital tomorrow

Mysuru, Feb.16 - Nayana Kumar's Multi-Speciality Hospital, located on the 3rd Main Road, near Netaji Circle at Dattagalli, will be conducting a free thyroid screening camp at the Hospital premises from 9 am tomorrow (Feb.17).

Those having symptoms such as excessive fat content in blood, increase in weight, change in voice, tiredness, increase in heartbeat , acidity etc., can make use of the free camp.

For details and registration, call, Mob: 95133-10100 or 95133-10102, according to a press release.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is hereby given to the public whomsoever that my client Honne Gowda S/o. Giri Gowda has purchased the scheduled property from Sri H. Swamy Gowda S/o. Honnagiri Gowda and intends to sell the scheduled property to Sri. Madhu S.S S/o. Shivalingegowda. Any person or persons having objections, claims or interest in the schedule property / transactions may lodge the same to the undersigned with valid certified documents / proof within Ten (10) days from the date of this publication, failing which it shall be presumed that the aforesaid property is free from any acts of encumbrances or claims.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Immovable Property i.e., agricultural land 27 Guntas bearing Survey No. 87/6 (Old Survey No. 87/5) bearing M.R. No. H 19/2021-2022 situated at Bogadhi Ring Road, Bogadhi, Kasaba Hobli, Mysore Taluk, Mysore. MEASURING – East By : Remaining Land in Survey No. 87, West By : Ring Road & Halla, North By : Land in Sy No. 87/1, South By: Mallegowda and Giri Gowda Land.

Harisha .K.P. (Advocate)
Office at No. 51/1, 5th Cross,
6th Main, Saraswathipuram,
Mysuru. Cell No. : 9886332001.
Madhu : 9845829917.

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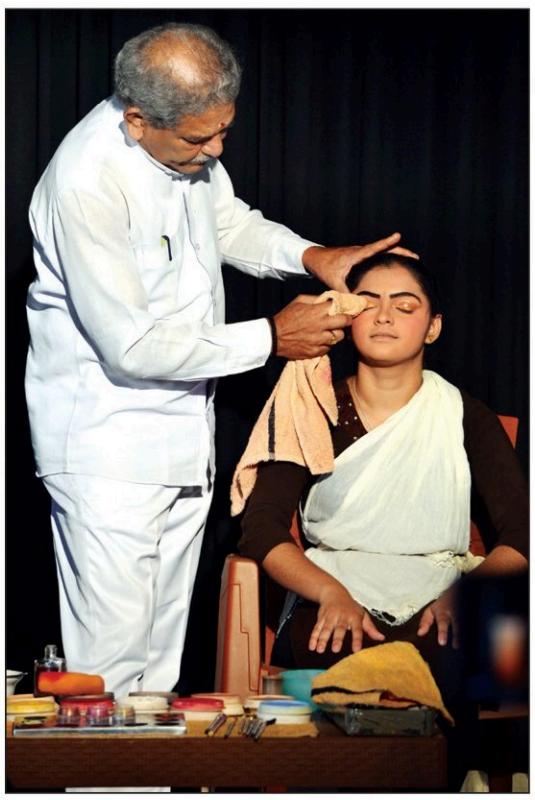
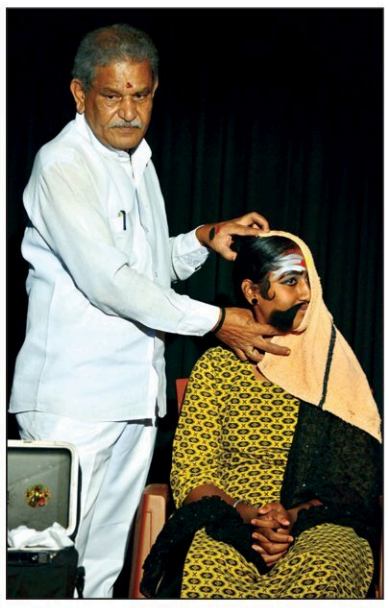
Makeup workshop



As part of the silver jubilee celebrations of Nrityagiri Academy of Performing Arts and Research Centre, B.M. Ramachandra of Rajeshwari Vastralankara, Mysuru, conducted a makeup workshop for the students at Nrityagiri Auditorium in Preethi Layout, Sriramapura 3rd Stage, Mysuru, on Feb. 13. Nrityagiri is headed by danseuse Vidushi Dr. Kripa Phadke.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that my client proposes to purchase the below mentioned Property from **Sri. B. KISHAN KUMAR**, son of Sri. B. Nagendra Kumar, No.92, 1st Main, Amarajyothinagar, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru - 560 040, presently at #910, Blossom Circle, Dayton, New Jersey 08810, who represented that he purchased the Schedule Property in terms of two Sale Deeds both executed in his favour i.e., (1) Sale Deed dated 11/01/2001 registered as Document No.7182/2000-01 in Book-I, Volume-5209 at pages 211 to 214, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Mysore South executed by Sri. Ramesh Kumar Jain and (2) Sale Deed dated 18/06/2010 registered as Document No.901/2010-11 in Book-I and stored in C.D.No.MDAD38, in the Office of the Additional District Registrar (Mysore Urban Development Authority), Mysore executed by Mysore Urban Development Authority. Persons objecting for the proposed purchase or having any right in the Schedule Property may lodge their objections and/or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within TEN days from the date of this publication and objections and/or claims received thereafter will not be binding on my clients and my clients will proceed to purchase the below mentioned property as if there are no claimants/objections.

:SCHEDULE:

Vacant Site bearing No.5356 (PID No.207466) situated at 3rd Stage, Dattagalli, Chamaraja Mohalla, Mysore, presently within the Limits of Mysore Mahanagara Palike Ward No.45, Mysore and measuring East to West 15 Meters and North to South 24 Meters in all measuring 360 Sq. Mtrs., and bounded by:

East : Road;
West : Site No.5311 and 5312;
North : Site No.5355; and
South : Site No.5357..

Sri. N. L. MAHESHWARA PRASAD,
Advocate,
"Unnati" No.819, 2nd Main Road, 5th Stage, BEML Layout, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore-560 098. Mob: 97399 79047

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PUBLIC NOTICE

My client is intending to purchase the schedule property from its owner **Sri, T. Muralidhar Bhagavat,** S/o.T. Raghavendra Bhagavat, aged about 72 years, residing at Door No. 17, 4th Main Road, Jayalakshmipuram, Mysuru-570012. Any persons having any rights, title, claim or interest in the Schedule property by way of sale, inheritance, possession, succession, mortgage, lien, lease, gift or otherwise whomsoever in respect of the same, shall intimate their objection in writing to the undersigned along with supporting documents thereof within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, any claims thereafter shall be deemed to have been waived and my client shall proceed to purchase the schedule mentioned Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing **Door No. 2726 D-17,** Constructed in Site No. 89, Situated at 6th Main, (Formerly Block-II/A), Vani Vilas Mohalla, Mysuru, measuring **East to West: 80 Feet and North to South: 96 Feet,** totally measuring **7680 Square Feet,** consisting of Ground Floor measuring **864 Square feet of Madras Terrace, 484 Square feet of RRC, 372 Square feet** of Mangalore Tiles, red oxide flooring including car garage (1720 Square Feet) residential building with electricity and water supply and bounded on: **East by: Property No. 2728 (Site No. 90) West by: Property No. 2727(Site No. 88) North by: Conservancy, South by: Road.**

Sd/- **B.P. RAJESHA,** Advocate,
514, Bindya Complex,
Thyagaraja Road, K.R. Mohalla,
Mysuru. Mobile : **9448336811**
Email: rajeshabgkoppal@gmail.com
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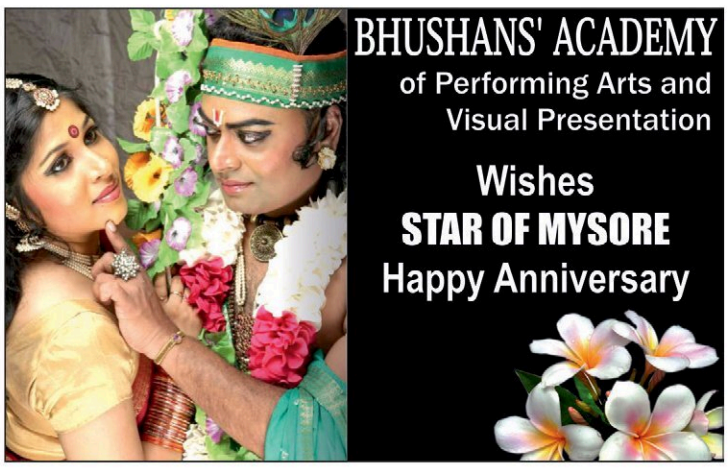

Karnataka Forest Department Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests & Director
Nagarahole Tiger Reserve, Hunsur

Notice for engaging personnel on Contract Basis

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for selection on contract basis, for the following posts in Nagarahole Tiger Reserve, Hunsur

Post	No. of Posts	Consolidated Remuneration per Month
Biodiversity Conservation - **Field Biologist**	1	Rs.30,000.00
Wildlife Rescue & Camp Elephants Management - **Veterinary Assistant**	2	Rs.20,000.00
Non-Technical – **Accountant**	1	Rs.25,000.00
Information & Communication Technology (ICT) – **IT Technician**	1	Rs.30,000.00

Applications in the prescribed format along with attested copies of the documents and registration fee of Rs.500/- (Non-refundable) shall be submitted through post only on or before 21/02/2022 upto 5:30 PM. The prescribed Application form, Eligibility Criteria, Job Profile and other relevant details may be downloaded from website: www.aranya.gov.in OR www.nagaraholetigerreserve.com

Sd/- Executive Director, Nagarahole Tiger Conservation Foundation

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SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sealed item Rate tenders in the prescribed form are invited by the Principal, JSS PDA, Mysuru from the Registered Civil Contractors (Class IV & above) of State PWD / CPWD for the below mentioned works.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Amount Put to Tender Rs. (excluding GST @ 12%)	EMD 2.5% for General & 1.25% for Reserved Category	Cost of Tender Form + GST @18%*	Time allowed for Completion of work	Reservation
1.	Replacement and re-alignment of existing damaged UGD line from dining block to existing manhole in Hostel Block D	4,41,160/-	11,000/-	520/-	20 Days	GM
2.	Replacement and re-alignment of existing damaged UGD line from dining block to manhole near hostel block in C	4,41,970/-	11,000/-	520/-	20 Days	GM
3.	Painting to existing dining & Kitchen block	1,93,780/-	2,400/-	230/-	20 Days	ST
4.	Providing atotic Polyproplyene membrances for existing terrace area of library	4,45,590/-	5,570/-	525/-	20 Days	SC

* Non Refundable

Date of issue of tender forms : **17-02-2022 to 23-02-2022 upto 5.00 p.m.**
Last date for receipt of tender : **25-02-2022 upto 4.00 p.m.**
Date of opening of tender : **28-02-2022 at 11.00 a.m. (Tentative)**

Separate tender forms are available for each work.

Tender form can be obtained by payment of cost of tender from this office. Tenderers should furnish GST No, PAN, License and Caste Certificate (if required) at the time of purchase of tender form. DD for EMD should be infavour of **The Principal, JSS PDA, Mysuru.**

The decision of the Managing committee will be final in all respects.

Further details can be had from the office of the Principal, JSS PDA, JSS TI Campus, Mysuru, on all working days from Monday to Friday between 10.30 AM to 5.30 PM and on Saturday 10.30 AM to 2.00 PM. **Sd/- PRINCIPAL**

Life through Lens

The 82-year-old Rajappan has shot nearly 400 feature films

By S. Kenneth Shishir

Film-making requires a wide array of professionals to work in harmony as they bring a narrative to life on-screen. A film's cameraman is responsible for operating the camera and capturing the film's footage. Cinematography, the art and technology of motion-picture photography involves such techniques as the general composition of a scene; the lighting of the set or location; the choice of cameras, lenses, filters and film stock; the camera angle and movements and the integration of any special effects.

They know which cameras to use in which conditions and consider the composition, framing and movement of a shot. Camera operators with a lot of experience have their own editorial eye and often offer up shots and ideas to the producer/ director.

Meet 82-year-old **M.S. Rajappan** of Mysuru, who has shot nearly 400 feature films and has produced about 350 advertising shorts and documentaries. He has also shot a documentary of late writer R.K. Narayan for the *BBC* in 1989 and a brief interview of President V.V. Giri with World Literature Crusade President Dr. Jack McAlister, which was shot at Rashtrapati Bhavan in 1970.

From well-known special effects cameraman D.S. Kotnis to veteran cameraman Kishen Saigal, Rajappan has worked as an assistant cameraman, operative cameraman and chief cameraman for 400 films in various languages.

Now, Rajappan stays at his humble abode in J.P. Nagar, Mysuru and leads a quiet life with his wife Sathyaprema, a retired staff of JSS College. Sathyaprema is the daughter of late B. Mallaraje Urs, who was an engineer and an award-winning author and is the niece of educationist late Jayalakshammani, who was the Vice-Chancellor of Karnatak University, Dharwad (February 1974-January 1975).

M.S. Rajappan with his wife Sathyaprema at his residence in J.P. Nagar.

Rajappan's only daughter M.R. Radika (Chitra) is married to M.C. Rajanikanthraj Urs, Sales Manager at Hewlett Packard (HP), In-Charge of South-East Asian Countries, based in Singapore. The couple is blessed with a daughter Lakshmi.

Recalling his journey as a cameraman, Rajappan told *Star of Mysore* that he was born to an agrarian family of Mudavesseril in Kumbalangi village near Kochi in Kerala, where he completed his school and college education.

"As I had a passion for film journalism, I started writing articles on contemporary cinemas and many journals began to publish my articles which were widely acclaimed. Well-known film director Ramu Kariat encouraged me and on his advice, I decided to shoot in any motion picture studio, which led me to Premier Studios in Mysore," Rajappan recalled.

After arriving at Premier Studios in 1955, Rajappan joined as an assistant cameraman to veteran special effects cameraman D.S. Kotnis, cousin of legendary Dr. Dwarkanath Kotnis.

"Later, I got an opportunity to work under 40 well-known Indian, British and Hollywood cameramen. I had the rare opportunity to work under Hollywood cameraman Gownther and special effects cameraman Mitt Rice for MGM film 'Maya,' a jungle thriller in English which was shot with four Panavision camera units in different locations in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu," he said.

Staring at death

Though Rajappan could not recollect many incidents during his career due to age factor, he said there were two or three incidents that he could never forget.

During his first assignment as an operative cameraman for Tamil movie 'Yanai Pagan,' a jungle thriller, with B. Saroja Devi and Uday Kumar in lead roles, which was shot in Ooty and dense forests of Mudumalai, the photography director had asked him to take shots of wildlife in its habitat. After mounting the camera on an elephant's back, he along with his assistant and the mahout set out into the forest and began shooting.

"As we were moving to shoot a big herd of bison, all of a sudden a lone tusker charged at us and our elephant began to shake vigorously, which could have resulted in us falling down from the elephant. But fortunately, there was a trench with wild growth inside at a few feet of distance from us and the tusker stopped in front of it. I saw death face-to-face for the first time," he said.

[Continued on Page - 45]

Rajappan during the shooting of a mythological film** (left) **and a Lambani movie.

Stint as film journalist

M.S. Rajappan (seated extreme right) ***with the crew that shot the documentary on late R.K. Narayan in 1989.***

[Continued from Page - 44]

Snake encounter

In another incident, during the shooting of the Kannada movie 'Hoysala', directed by veteran director C.V. Shivashankar, the location of the shooting was a dilapidated temple with statues of hooded snakes, which was covered with creepers and bushes in the dense forest near Mudigere in Chikkamagalur.

"When I was adjusting the camera, a snake with its hood open appeared all of a sudden and came near the camera. The crew including the director ran away and stood at a distance calling me to leave the camera and run away. But to my surprise, within seconds, a dozen snakes surrounded my camera and I was still holding the camera handle out of fear and not knowing what to do. Fortunately, all the snakes retreated after holding a sort of peaceful protest and the shooting for the day was cancelled," Rajappan added.

In 1965, Rajappan started his own firm 'Movie International' and became a pioneer in the field of production of advertising films and documentaries. The then owner of Premier Studios, M.N. Basavarajaiah had helped Rajappan. "Basavarajaiah even stood as a guarantee for the advance payment from clients," he recalled.

"Though I am a cinematographer and short filmmaker, I also worked as a freelance film journalist for many years. I worked as a Mysore correspondent of 'Movie Land,' a popular English weekly published from Chennai. I was also elected as the President of Mysore City Film Journalists Association for two terms," he signed off▪

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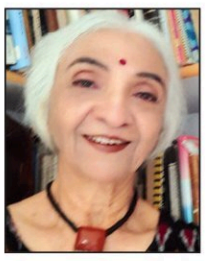
Old Mysore...

A Fond Memory



By Girija Madhavan

The Past is over, you cannot get back to it. Live each day anew," was written in the Autograph Books of our school days. In these days of uncertainty and menace, it is a comfort to reach back in memory to the lovely old Mysore of my childhood and briefly revisit the Past.

Some lore of old Mysore [Mysuru now] came to me from stories told by Mukta, my mother, who was a great raconteur. Other memories were images from my own experiences; my first visit, as a very small girl, to the Temple on Chamundi Betta, being one of them. My father, M. Venkatesh, took me in his car on the winding, uphill road. There were drifts of mist on the hillside. If lucky, one saw monkeys playing on the rocks or even a mongoose.

There were no shops lining the path to the temple then, only vendors with *puja* materials in baskets for devotees to buy. The steep vestibule leading to the sanctum acted as a flue. A chill breeze whistled up it and the stone steps were icy cold to our bare feet. There were no metal barricades around the sanctum and no crowds either. I was asked later if I had seen the glowing ruby on the idol. I had not, but seeing the lamps, floral decorations and smelling the incense remained in the memory.

On another occasion, I accompanied father to an office building. Outside, boys were playing a ball game. While only the top of the head was tonsured, the hair at the back was braided into a plait. When I see Chinese Kung Fu actors on television, I am reminded of those young boys. Father told me that he had a similar hairdo as a ten-year-old boy [probably in 1900] and disliked it enough to sneak off to a barber, wheedling him to cut it off. His strict father punished him but accepted his shorn state later.

Life continued in an even tenor when my parents moved from their first home in Lakshmipuram to a Railway Bungalow on KRS Road where I was born in 1938. Freshly baked bread from Hamza Bakery on Sayyaji Rao Road was delivered to the house in a big wickerwork basket balanced on the carrier of a bicycle. The dhobi came with his donkey to carry away soiled laundry on panniers on its back. Butter from Halladakeri was bought in a *donne* [banana fibre container] which mother accepted. She was famous for sanitising vegetables and fruit in "Pinky" [water coloured a light pink with some crystals of Potassium permanganate]. The butter passed muster as it was melted to make ghee and boiled till the house was redolent with the smell. Drumstick leaves were added at the end and made a crispy snack.

A procession in Srirangapatna carries Gandhiji's ashes. *[Pics courtesy: Deccan Herald]*

> "On 12th February 1948, came news that Gandhiji's ashes were to be immersed in sacred rivers and in the Kaveri [Cauvery] at Paschimavahini.

Some shopping had to be done in the city. Shivarampet stocked wholesale goods like rice, dals and even onions. A strong smell of coffee wafted from father's favourite shop where he bought powdered coffee.

Sayyaji Rao Road had different merchandise. Art and school materials were bought at R. Krishnaswamy. Ali Brothers sold general goods, dolls and round chocolates covered in glittery paper. By the arched entrance to Devaraja Market was a toy shop, next to the Rajputana Trading Company where father shopped while I was transfixed by the toys and spinning tops or *"bugri"*, pear shaped and made of wood. The rounded tops were decorated with bands of colour [Channapatna lacquer], the wooden part was fluted, to fit a jute string around it. The *bugris* are still available but now are sometimes used by adults as a power game to bet on.

I also had several stiff wooden figures, called "Marapachi Bommai" in Tamil, from the same shop. The trees along Sayyaji Rao Road were home to parakeets and at sundown, shrill screeches filled the air as the birds fought for perches; so different from the bedraggled parakeets of the soothsayers, only let out of their cages to pick fortune cards for their clients.

Instead of "over-the-counter" medicines, our doctors wrote prescriptions which were "dispensed" by a "Compounder" and filled in green glass bottles at T.C. Nataraj, the Chemist. The dosage was graded on the glass bottles in raised lines. Mukta's Potassium permanganate was also available here. Across the road was Bombay Indra Bhavan, closed these many years, whose "Tuppada Dosais" were fit for a royal palate.

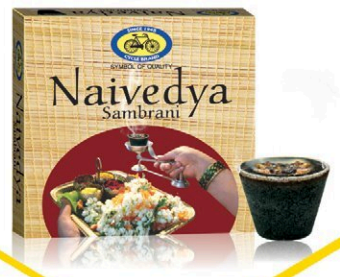
My father retired in 1947. We moved to a rented house called Sri Cauvery [torn down long ago] on the outskirts of Yadavagiri while our own house was being built. Those were tempestuous days with communal riots in North India while our town was both peaceful and secure. The radio was a constant companion on which we heard of the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi.

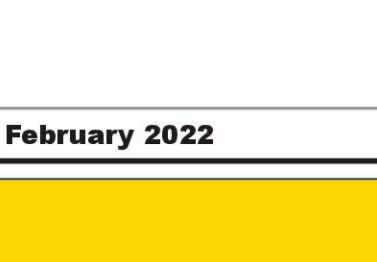
Then on 12th February 1948, came news that Gandhiji's ashes were to be immersed in sacred rivers and in the Kaveri [Cauvery] at Paschimavahini. Father was very keen to see this historic event. His old Green Standard sputtered into silence when he tried to start it. He cajoled a friend into lending him a ramshackle jeep. I accompanied him, excited to be in this open rugged vehicle and on the Bangalore-Mysore road; green fields and coconut trees on either side.

But soon we saw groups of people walking back and vehicles headed back to Mysore. The ceremony was over, father a dejected man, headed home. This memory is poignant because Gandhiji's Death Anniversary was on 30th January 2022.

It was a new era for our country, for us. I recall the tumult of those days, India emerging strong from those searing times, Mysore retained its innate beauty... and still does. Our iconic and mystic Chamundi Betta, opaline in the sunshine, presides benignly over the city, a continuity in time and space.

THE PRAYER STORE OF MYSORE





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